

Rhodesians claim they killed 1,200 guerrillas in Mozambique raids

Rhodesian Government sources have denied reports that women and children were killed deliberately during raids by security forces on two guerrilla camps in Mozambique last week. In the

first confirmation of the raids, military headquarters said that more than 1,200 guerrillas had been killed and one Rhodesian soldier had died. There was no contact with Mozambican forces

Overworked BAOR asks for extra 2,500 men

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The British Army of the Rhine has sent an urgent request to the Ministry of Defence for 2,500 more men to help to meet its peacetime commitments. An overall increase in the size of the Army might be needed to solve the problem.

The extra manpower is required to overcome difficulties of "overstretch" ruling from restructuring of the Army after the Government's 1974-75 Defence Review.

Manpower cuts of 16,000 have led to a 13 per cent increase in the ratio of weapons to troops. BAOR commanders are finding that they do not have enough men to do all the work.

The shortages are felt most acutely in regiments of the Royal Artillery and of the Royal Armoured Corps, in which the number of tanks has been increased by more than 50 per cent while the number of men has gone down. The Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are also affected. One officer spoke of men doing a 70-hour week to meet the extra workload.

In Royal Artillery air defence regiments, a Radar missile team which needs seven men in wartime is making do with only five, which allows little opportunity for men to be away on courses or leave.

BAOR sources say the shortages would not be as badly felt in wartime because many of the administrative functions involved in running a peacetime barracks would be dropped. However, many units now need an additional 30 men to perform all the necessary tasks.

One officer explained: "We are down to the bare minimum. We simply have no fat left on the bones to draw upon when anyone is away."

Ironically, BAOR's overall size was left untouched at 55,000 after the defence cuts, because this is the minimum that Britain is committed to maintain. It is the rise in the number of weapons in the "teeth" arms regiments that has caused the present crisis.

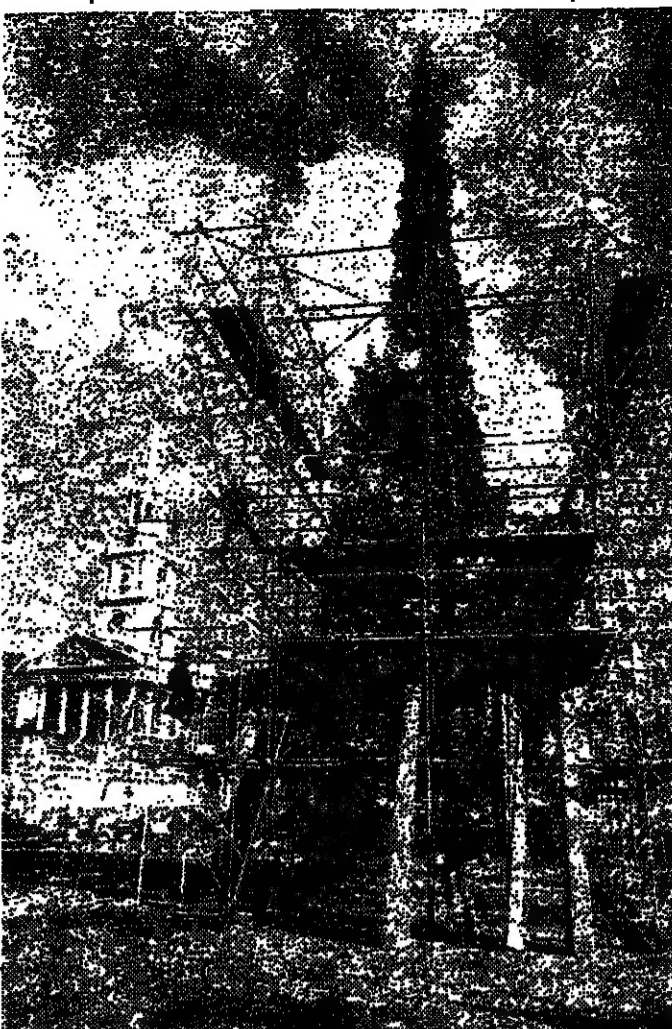
Ideally, the Army would like to see an additional 2,500 men under the increases in public spending expected from the Government next spring. The Ministry of Defence will be disappointed if it does not receive its share.

An alternative would be to find more men from Army units in Britain and elsewhere, but these are also "down to the bone" and such a course would be unpopular with United Kingdom Land Forces headquarters near Salisbury.

Another difficulty is that increasing the size of BAOR would mean that the British foreign exchange counter would be still more unpopular with the Treasury.

BAOR, therefore, might have to lose some of the troops from its newly formed 5th Field Force, the infantry formation which is in wartime would serve in what is called the Rear Combat Zone behind the four armoured divisions of the 1st British Corps.

However, the feeling in BAOR is that, come what may, the armoured and artillery units of the 1st Corps where the overstretch is being felt most, must be strengthened.



The traditional Christmas tree, 70ft high, presented by the people of Oslo, after it was erected in Trafalgar Square, yesterday.

Grunwick strikers are near the bitter end

By Robert Parker

The dispute at the Grunwick film processing laboratories, in north-west London, appears to be virtually over. The strikers are talking about the best way to pull out.

It has been decided that there is no point in further mass picketing, and there is little hope of any other tactics bringing victory.

The strike committee thinks there are only two fair possibilities of success. One is a ruling by the House of Lords in favour of recognition by Grunwick of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex). The second is that members of other unions can be persuaded to cut off services such as electricity and postal deliveries unofficially.

At the end of last year the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) recommended, after a ballot, that Apex should be recognised. But Acas had not been allowed in the factory, and in consequence only the strikers had been balloted. Grunwick contested the recommendation. The matter has since been through the High Court, which found in favour of Acas and the Court of Appeal, which reversed that decision. Acas appealed to the Lords, and a ruling is expected next week.

Although Mr Roy Graham, general secretary of Apex, has said the strike is at an end, the strikers feel that the union is not on their side. That feeling was reinforced by the suspension of their chairman and secretary for four weeks, together with four hunger-striking who were staging a protest outside TUC headquarters in their cause.

The strike committee has decided that it will not allow the dispute to die a slow death. If it becomes apparent that the two objectives of reinstatement and union recognition are unobtainable, a press conference will be held to declare the dispute at an end.

Mr Graham, who has in vain sought assurances from Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, that the Belgrade review conference

of the Helsinki accords will not be allowed to conclude while Soviet citizens monitoring the progress of the accords are held in jail, will also meet the British delegation to the conference.

She is being accompanied by Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who commanded the British military mission to Marshal Tito's partisans during the Second World War.

Mr Callaghan resists Labour pressure to withdraw EEC poll Bill

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Rejecting left-wing protests about the Government's handling of the European Direct Elections Bill, Mr Callaghan bluntly told a joint meeting of the cabinet and the party's national executive yesterday that the Government would not withdraw the Bill.

To do so, he said, would be to break his personal word to European leaders and mean going back on an international commitment.

He also said that in the free vote on the method of election to the European Parliament he would vote for the regional list system of proportional representation.

After the meeting, held at 10 Downing Street, the embattled positions of the national executive, representing the party conference's opposition to the election, and a divided Government wanting to get the Bill through, seemed to have changed hardly at all.

The Prime Minister proposed that there should be a joint Cabinet-NEC working party that would produce a statement about the reform of the EEC on which both party and Government could agree. That would then be included in the party's manifesto at the next general election.

But Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, pointed out later, the first task of the NEC when it meets on December 14 will be to decide whether the party will contest the direct elections if the Bill, without a majority of Labour MPs voting for it, passes through Parliament.

That issue, rather than the setting up of the joint working party, appeared to be the one bothering him. "We could say that we will not fight," he said.

"If we did that, we would in my view get the worst of both worlds."

"If we were to stand aside there would be a ragbag of politicians who would fight. Some would be former members of the party who would have organisations to support them financially, with people to work for them."

"We would be on the sidelines and this party would find itself split between the Independent Labour and the Labour Party as you and I know it. Surely common sense has got to prevail somewhere?"

There was obviously no prospect of the Government withdrawing the Bill after what the Prime Minister had said; if the NEC decided to fight the elections, the party could speedily make arrangements for the selection of candidates and so on. There was no list of candidates yet.

With rumours that the salaries are likely to be between £20,000 and £25,000 there will not be a shortage of applicants," he forecast.

Mr Hayward said that he and Mr Reginald Underhill, the national agent, had recommended that the European elections should be held on the same day as the next general election, "and that will not be next May," he added.

"We propose such a course because we think there will be a very low poll for the European elections. As I go around the country I do not see exactly setting people alight."

"If the polling were on the same day as the general election there would be a better chance of setting a good turnout. The elections would be able to vote for Westminster and also for their European candidates."

Continued on page 2, col 2

Firemen's leaders at No 10 today

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

The Prime Minister will meet the Fire Brigades Union executive at 10 Downing Street this morning as the firemen's strike enters its fifteenth day. There were no signs that the meeting, sought yesterday by the union, will open the way to an early settlement on the firemen's 30 per cent pay claim.

Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, said after yesterday's executive meeting, which was adjourned until today: "This does not mean anything other than that we are going to see the Prime Minister to discuss the dispute with him."

The talks with Mr Callaghan will include all 16 rank-and-file lay members of the executive together with Mr Parry and the union's other four national officers.

Government officials have cordoned off the area around No 10, saying that the Prime Minister has no intention of authorising any immediate pay offer above the 10 per cent offered by the local authority employers.

Union executive members reported at yesterday's London meeting that there had been no significant breaks in the solidarity of the 30,000 full-time firemen.

Mr Parry said that nearly a million signatures collected from the public had been handed in at Downing Street during the demonstration organised by the union's London region. He added that "several million" people throughout the country had signed petitions in support of the action.

Our Political Editor writes: The Prime Minister responded with alacrity last night to the firemen's request for a meeting. It will be the first time he has met any of the union executive since the strike began and the first time he has decided, or been asked, to intervene in a national strike.

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, will also be at today's meeting. The Prime Minister was apparently surprised by the firemen's request from Mr Parry, which was received by a private secretary. It was conveyed to Mr Callaghan at a private meeting with Mr Steel, the Liberal leader.

Earlier in Whitehall there had been a series of discussions of reports of Cabinet divisions over the Prime Minister's refusal to make the firemen a new offer.

Five deaths, page 2

Leading article, page 15

Deaths of children 'regrettable'

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Nov 28

News agency reports that the Rhodesian security forces deliberately killed women and children during raids last week on two guerrilla camps in Mozambique were denied tonight by Government sources.

Military headquarters earlier confirmed that the raids had taken place and said that more than 1,200 guerrillas had been killed. Rhodesian casualties were said to have been one white soldier killed and eight wounded.

Denying the deliberate killing of women and children, one Government source said: "The two camps were clearly defined as terrorist military bases and as such were attacked by our forces. If women and children were in fact in the camps and were killed it is regrettable. But we are at war and civilians, particularly women and children, should not be in such camps."

Last week's operation was Rhodesia's most successful of the five-year war. The forces first struck last Wednesday at the main operational headquarters of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army, which supports Mr Robert Mugabe, in an area 55 miles inside Mozambique and about 12 miles north of the town

of Chimoi. They returned to Rhodesian territory at dusk on Thursday. No contact was made with Mozambique troops.

The second strike was made on Saturday, against the Tembe base camp, about 125 miles from the border and north-east of the Sabotee dam. Again, there was no contact with Mozambican forces and all Rhodesian troops and aircraft were safely back inside Rhodesia by 3 pm on Sunday.

The military communiqué said the raids were made "in the interests of self defence and the aims of the ground and air attacks were all successfully achieved."

Official figures put the guerrilla deaths at 200, but unofficial estimates have been as high as 2,000. Many others were wounded and large quantities of weapons, vehicles, ammunition, fuel, buildings and documents were destroyed.

Mr Roger Hawkins, the War Minister, said the raids had been made because there had been a big buildup of guerrilla forces and increased guerrilla incursions into Rhodesia. He described the operation as "an outstanding success". He said Rhodesia had been aware for some time of a considerable increase in trained guerrillas at base camps in Mozambique of Mr Mugabe's forces.

"It had also become clear that terrorist incursions from Mozambique into Rhodesia were increasing and that as usual their attacks were being directed mainly at black civilians in the tribal trust lands," he said.

Mr Hawkins continued: "During the past two months more than 100 black civilians have been murdered by terrorists. Accordingly, it was essential to take action to self defence in the interests of safeguarding the lives of all Rhodesians and to protect national integrity."

He said it had not been anticipated that any contact would be made with Mozambican forces in the course of the raids and this had proved to be the case. He also congratulated the Rhodesian security forces on their planning and execution of the raids.

Coming as they do just before constitutional talks in Salisbury—probably later this week—the raids have boosted Rhodesian morale and in turn placed Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, in a powerful position at the conference table. He will be able to state unquestionably that he has military strength and has not been driven to find an internal settlement because of any weakness on the battlefield.

The sequence of events on the morning of the attack seems to have been as follows. At about 7.30 am the men in the camp were beginning their routine drilling and bayonet practice. Aircraft were seldom heard in the area. Civil aircraft avoid the Mugabe zone, in which the camp is situated, and when a jet came over, the men thought it was a stray airliner.

But when it dived low and other forward and began dropping bombs, everyone knew differently.

Mr Ngarif Mutumbensira, a guerrilla, remembered the chaos of those moments. Sitting on a hospital bench, his broken arm in a splint, he told me: "Within a few seconds planes were moving about in the air and we were all scared. We couldn't think what to do quickly except to run away."

Continued on page 6, col 5



Mr Meir Rosenne, left, and Dr Eli Ben Elissar.

Israel names delegates to Cairo talks

From Moshe Brilliant
Jerusalem, Nov 28

Israel today named two civil servants as delegates to the Cairo conference opening on December 3 which Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, said marked the opening of "a face to face negotiations with our neighbours for a true peace."

Speaking in the Knesset, Mr Begin said the letter of invitation from the acting Foreign Minister of Egypt to Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister of Israel, was handed to the United Nations last night by his Egyptian opposite number.

Mr Begin said the two men "hook hands. It was the first time an Egyptian delegate to the United Nations had acknowledged the presence of Israel."

that, in consultation with Mr Dayan, who is now in Germany, it had been agreed that the Israeli representatives will be Dr Eli Ben Elissar, Director-General of the Prime Minister's office, and Mr Meir Rosenne, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

Israel's acceptance of the invitation was sent through its representative at the United Nations, Mr Begin said.

Quoting from the Egyptian letter, Mr Begin said the conference was to be an informal meeting of the parties to the Middle East dispute as well as the Soviet and American co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr Begin reported to the House on President Sadat's mission to Jerusalem but shed no light on what was on in the private talks. He gently chided deputies who had made public statements urging the Government to be forthcoming in the negotiations with Egypt. "This is an important hour," he said. "Don't compete in making concessions."

Mission to heal Arab rift, page 6

Banks split on interest rates

After last week's 2 point rise in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate on 22nd, National Westminster announced an increase of 1½ per cent to 7½ per cent in its base lending rate which was later followed by a 1 point rise to 7 per cent by Lloyds. The rates reflect sharp differences of opinion over the short-term outlook.

New Japanese Cabinet
Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, dismissed his Cabinet and appointed a new team of ministers that included economic experts to deal with the economic, political and diplomatic problems caused by Japan's huge trade surplus.

Worker directors
Disagreement over the allocation of worker-director seats on the main Post Office board is dogging the Government's first practical experiment in worker-participation, which is due to begin in a month.

Mr Gierak to see Pope
Mr Edward Gierak, the Polish Communist Party leader, arrived in Rome for a visit during which he will call on the Pope. It will be the first time that a Polish communist leader has been to the Vatican.

Refuge ship crisis
Australia has sent a Navy patrol boat to intercept a trawler heading for Darwin with 175 Vietnamese refugees on board. Indonesia refused them permission to land when they arrived at Surabaya last Tuesday.

Unmarried woman's rights upheld

By a majority, the Court of Appeal has decided that an unmarried woman has the same right as a wife to expel a violent man from her home, even if he has some property rights in it. The decision overturned two previous rulings by the Court of Appeal.

Political education
Courses in political education for all pupils in secondary schools, including instruction in the skills needed for direct action, are urged in a report by a research unit at York University.

Carter homestead site
Debreit's Peckage has tarnished its image in the United States by a blunder in its search for President Carter's roots. The firm has had to admit that an announcement that the first Carter homestead site had been found was "misleading."

Typhoid: A boy who was a passenger on a cruise to North Africa is in a Lancashire hospital with typhoid.

Help for disabled: The running costs of an electrically operated wheelchair and other special aids needed by a disabled woman can be met by supplementary benefit payments, the High Court ruled 2-1.

Missing baronet: Sir Rupert Mackeson, the baronet missing from his London home since October, is not being sheltered by friends.

Horn of Africa: Ethiopia is reported to be poised for a counter-attack against the Somali forces attacking Hargeisa.

Obituary: 16
Parliament: 16
Sale Rooms: 16
Science: 10
Stars of Month: 16
Sport: 12, 13
TV & Radio: 27

Shipyard peace move

The 1,700 outstanding workers at Swan Hunter's Tyneside yard who have been operating an overtime ban for three months will be recommended today to lift the ban in order to serve a £52m contract, part of the £115m shipbuilding deal with Poland.

Leader page 15
On Servicemen's pay, from Brigadier Sheldford Bidwell, and others; on exchange control, from Mr John Phillimore; leading articles: The firemen's strike; Mr Gierak in Rome; The new Japanese Cabinet; Features, pages 8 and 14.

Philip Howard talks to Edward Heath about his book, Bernard Levin in the wilderness; a Yugoslav priest; Christopher Walker looks at organized crime and the Ulster terrorists; Social focus by Gerald Russell.

Arts, page 8
Sheridan Morley interviews Polly Adams; Alan Coren on Silver Blaze (ITV); Judith Crickbank on A Good Night's Sleep (Adelphi Theatre); Paul Overy on the Leonardo exhibition at Burlington House; Obituary, page 16.

Professor W. H. McMenamy; Miss Winifred A. Coats; Sport, pages 12 and 13; Cricket: Mr Packer's plans for floodlit matches; Football: Norman Fox on Liverpool's attitude to League Cup; FA Cup second round draw; Rugby Union: Peter West looks at Cambridge's team for the university match; Business News, pages 17-23.

Stock markets: There was no follow-through of Friday's rally and the FT index closed 25 down at 464.5. Financial Editor: Implications of the Hattersley review; RIZ's uranium maze; Pensions: Funding in the Euratom.

Business Features: Peter Waymark reports on the development of the Russian car industry; Clive Schindler on the EEC's draft directive which has angered British commercial agents; Business Diary: City of London, campaigners are bearish about the cost of keeping elephants.

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HOME NEWS

Political action should be included in school courses, report urges

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Courses in political education should be made part of a common core or protected part of the curriculum for all pupils in secondary schools, says the political education research unit at York University in a draft report of a three-year research project.

Political education, it says, should include a study of institutions, parties, political concepts, issues of national and everyday life, and the skills necessary to take political action.

Political action, it suggests, might be anything from writing a letter to an MP, or speaking at a public meeting, to organising a petition, forming a pressure group, or taking other or direct action.

The report acknowledges the need to reassure the public about the danger of the indoctrination of children by teachers with strong political views or bias, and remove the fear that, for example, long-haired Marxist teachers would be leading children into revolution on the streets.

Living in a pluralistic society, with many sources of information available, and influenced by various agencies of political socialisation such as the family, the media, and still, for some, the Church, as well as the school, teachers are relatively impotent to transmit values to their students, says the report. Instances of charismatic political education teachers, such as Chris Searle, were remarkable for their rarity.

In a detailed study of six schools providing political education, the report found that teachers were greatly worried about the possibility of the transmission of their own political values and ideologies to their pupils.

Interviews with the pupils, however, showed that they had a clear and accurate view of the value position of the teacher, made allowances for it, and did not see it as a difficulty. Teachers were therefore worrying unnecessarily when wondering whether to make their political views explicit to the pupils.

The report suggests that there is a need for further empirical research into the questions concerning prejudice, bias, and indoctrination, if only to lay those ghosts.

Provided a teacher had the right approach to "political literacy", which involved being aware of and communicating the alternatives to his own political position, having a respect for the truth and reason, showing tolerance and fairness to different points of view, there should be no danger, the unit found.

The unit was set up in 1974 with a £20,000 grant from the Nuffield Foundation under Professor Ian Lister, head of the department of education at York University, to study the political learning of young people in schools and colleges in order to discover appropriate ways of assessing political learning, and the limitations of formal programmes of political education.

A further £20,000 was given by the foundation at the same time to finance a study research project, under Professor Bernard Crick, head of the department of politics and sociology at Birkbeck College, London, to encourage the development of political education in schools and to propose suitable syllabuses.

Although the York unit would like to see political education courses provided in all secondary schools and further education colleges, it does not feel that a rapid spread of such courses is possible given the shortage of suitably trained teachers.

Suitable training should not simply be training in politics, but a combination of learning how to identify, understand and analyse political issues and concepts, and how to organise learning so as to involve most students in discussion and debate and encourage the creation of a "democratic classroom".

The report calls for a national survey of the provision of political education in schools.

Work starts on £1m Irish Centre extension

By Philip Howard

The Irish Centre in Camden, London, the spiritual and social home for Irish men and women lost in the waste-land of London, yesterday launched an ambitious scheme for a film extension.

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, and Mr. Thomas O. Flaherty, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, laid the first three bricks under the critical eyes of an expert audience. The rest of the work will be done more expeditiously by the contractor, J. Murphy and Sons, which estimates that it will be finished by June, 1979.

The centre was founded as an oasis of Irishness 22 years ago in two rambling Victorian terrace houses. After the war there was plenty of work, particularly on the building sites, and the Irish streamed over at a rate of up to a thousand a week. They had nowhere to go for companionship, and a dusty day on the building site except the public house. In parts of London such as Kilburn and Camden, town they acquired a reputation for booze, belligerence, ignorance, and crime.

The loneliness of the London Irish was captured by John Keats, the playwright, who was for a time an emigrant to England.

"Oh take him down to Crickle-



Mr. O. H. Flaherty and Cardinal Hume laying the first bricks yesterday for the extension to the Irish Centre.

wood, to mortar, bricks, and lime. And let him rot in Cricklewood until he serves his time. Oh Cricklewood, Oh Cricklewood, you stole my youth away.

For I was young and innocent, but you were old and grey. In 1955 a group of Irish priests and laity, concerned about the Irish drift in London, opened the Irish Centre. It was intended to provide temporary lodging for the homeless, jobs for the unemployed, social life

for the homesick, and personal help.

Since then the centre has saved 30,000 Irish from shipwreck in the big city, and more than 2,500 a week come for dinner, dances, céilidhs, Guinness, and other lifelines to home. A present 135 young Irish men and women, who have nowhere else to stay, are being put up at the centre. But the buildings have decayed, while the work has increased.

The launching of the extension was a pleasantly Irish occasion. The centre was full of nuns, priests, and chunky men with heavy hands, all talking nineteen to the dozen. The bars were doing a roaring trade from 10.30 am onwards.

Cardinal Hume said: "Much of the criticism of the Irish is anachronistic caricature, which does not serve to promote good community relations. A million pounds is a lot of money, but Catholics have never been short of generosity when they see the need."

The case was adjourned until January to give Mr. Whittisname time to prepare his defence.

Name game aim to halt legal campaign

From Our Correspondent Worcester

A man accused by the Law Society on six counts of carrying out bogus purchase conveyancing work while unqualified to do so told Worcester magistrates yesterday that he had changed his surname by deed poll to Whittisname as a protest against the society's "Don't trust Whittisname" advertising campaign.

After the case he said he was planning to ask the Society to cancel the campaign so that it would not defame him.

Mr. Francis Reynolds, aged 45, a law lecturer, of Hydon Road, Worcester, revealed his change of name after pleading not guilty to the six summonses of carrying out conveyancing work when he was not a qualified solicitor. He was addressed as Mr. Whittisname by the magistrates and court officials during the rest of the hearing.

He told the court: "No doubt the bench has been offended by the advertising campaign mounted by the Law Society. The society believes that, like the Pope, it is in purpose of these proceedings is for it to wage a war of attrition against me."

The case was adjourned until January to give Mr. Whittisname time to prepare his defence.

In brief

Petition to save opera house

Copies of a petition with more than 10,000 signatures calling on Greater Manchester Council and the Arts Council to save the Manchester Opera House will be presented to officials of the two councils today (our Theatre Reporter writes).

The Opera House and the Palace Theatre, Manchester, are threatened with closure early in the new year.

Algarve body named

An inquest was opened in Westminster yesterday and adjourned until January 11 on Mr. Richard James Dorey Harrison, aged 25, of Penzance, whose body was found in the sea off Algarve, Portugal, more than a month ago.

Mayor's wife robbed

Mrs. Dawn Mearns, wife of the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, was beaten up in her home at Warwick Square, Westminster, yesterday and robbed of jewellery and silverware valued at £3,500.

Ambulances return

Merseyside ambulance services operated to schedule yesterday after a dispute over bonus payments, which arose from an overtime ban and ended in a 13-hour strike before settlement was agreed last Friday.

£48,000 damages

Mrs. Margaret Lewis, aged 32, of Merthyr Tydfil, whose husband was killed when his bulldozer toppled over the edge of an open-cast mine roadway in 1970, was awarded £48,044 damages in the High Court, London, yesterday.

Post-mortem on bear

Officials carried out a post-mortem examination yesterday at Bristol zoo to try to find out how Sebastian, aged 19 years, the first male polar bear born in Britain, died.

Office strike

About 150 staff at the social security office at Wigan, Greater Manchester held a one-day strike yesterday over the dismissal of a colleague.

David Frost does not owe tax on £174,000, judge says

David Frost, the television personality, does not owe tax on more than £174,000 of his earnings in the United States, Mr. Justice Browne-Wilkinson ruled in the High Court yesterday. He said that a Bahamian partnership Mr. Frost set up in 1967 was designed not to avoid tax but to handle Mr. Frost's increasing earnings abroad, particularly in the United States.

He said, with costs, the Inland Revenue appeal over a

tax commissioner's decision excluding Mr. Frost's foreign earnings between 1969 and 1972 from income tax. Mr. Frost, of Edgerton Crescent, Chelsea, had originally been assessed for tax over the three years on £174,654, but the commissioners had reduced that to £27,805, which was all money earned in Britain.

The judge rejected the Inland Revenue contention that the partnership could not exist in law as only one member was active under the agreement. Mr. Frost received 95 per cent of the profits of the company, Leander Productions Ltd.

The judge held that the partnership was legally valid. It was intended to exploit Mr. Frost's talents abroad, he said. The money under the Bahamian partnership was never received by Mr. Frost in Britain.

Since the Finance Act, 1974, was introduced, tax is payable in Britain on three quarters of foreign earnings paid outside Britain.

After the judgment one of Mr. Frost's legal advisers said that before Leander was set up Mr. Frost had been advised to leave Britain for financial reasons. But he was determined to stay in the United Kingdom resident and receive his earnings in the sterling area, so the Bahamian arrangement had been made.

Scottish land plan criticized

The Scottish Landowners' Federation replied yesterday to recent calls for land nationalization in Scotland. It said in a statement that the sole result of public ownership of agricultural land would be an enormous bill for the nation, more bureaucracy, the loss of revenue from capital taxation on private holdings and higher food prices.

Members of the federation own more than four fifths of rural land in Scotland. The statement said the landowner-tenant system was the foundation on which the British agricultural industry had produced food efficiently. It was also the best way of enabling farmers to enter the industry since it did not require them to buy and stock land.

The Duke of Atholl, chairman of the federation, said the cost of a small arable farm plus stock was more than £500,000. The return on let land after all charges had been paid and expenses met was only 2 per cent. It was therefore more profitable for a man to farm his own land, which accounted for the trend towards owner-occupation.

A recent book on Scottish land ownership and policy statements by the Scottish National Party and the breakaway Scottish Labour Party all favour land nationalization.

Police cover-up

Women in the South Yorkshire police force are being issued with trousers. They were the target for wolf whistles when they climbed in skirts over walls or out of cars.

Council backs £1-a-house idea for double-glazing

By Our Local Government Correspondent

A simple method of double-glazing a house for less than £1 has impressed Hammersmith Borough Council so much that it launched a campaign yesterday to publicize the idea.

The council believes it can save fuel costs and help old people to avoid the danger of hypothermia. The key to the method, developed by Mr. Geoffrey Horsley, a scientist at Harwell Research Laboratories, is a transparent food-wrapping material sold by supermarkets and grocers, usually in rolls 12 inches wide.

He tested the idea for a year before announcing that he had successfully double-glazed a fire-bedroom house for £1. The transparent film is pressed against window frames, to which it adheres. A 1-inch gap between window and film is

Sir Rupert Mackeson 'not being sheltered'

Sir Rupert Mackeson, the missing baronet, is not being sheltered by his aristocratic friends, Lord Normanton said yesterday. Sir Rupert, the nephew of the late Lord, disappeared in October from his home in Portman Square, near Marble Arch, London.

He is believed to have debts up to £100,000 and the police were seeking to interview him in connection with complaints about his holiday company. They were considering a theory that he might have been hidden by influential and wealthy friends.

Lord Normanton, who was best man at Sir Rupert's wedding to Miss Camille Keith, dismissed the theory. "I have not seen him for years", he said, "and as I keep in touch with his former friends I know they have not seen him."

Detectives are appealing for people who bought £3 tickets to a lecture next week in support of the "National Arts Council Fund" to come forward.

Scotland Yard said: "We have established that the fund does not exist and the lecture will not take place. A number of tickets are thought to have been sold, and we think Sir Rupert can help us."

Sir Rupert's mother, Althea Lady Mackeson, is understood to be suing him for the return of cash and jewellery totalling about £13,000.

His disappearance was reported after several groups of holidaymakers had complained that his Mayfair travel agency had suddenly closed without issuing tickets for paid tours.

Detectives are anxious to trace anyone who has had dealings with the company, Master Classes, of Shepherd Street, and Shepherd Market. They know of 25 members of the Art and Creative Society of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, who were wanted to get into touch with the company after they had paid £3,500 for a four-day visit to Leningrad.

Mr. John Kenworthy-Browne, a writer and lecturer, who led some of Sir Rupert's culture tours, said: "I never believed he could be making money, but friends assured me he was. I thought he cut things too fine."

Another business associate disclosed that Sir Rupert had run into difficulties organising lectures in support of the National Art-Collections Fund. He said: "He had to cancel some lectures at the last minute and two of the lecturers were enormously upset. I understand something went very seriously wrong."

Scotland Yard said Sir Rupert was asked to organise a lecture on Rubens for the fund, which paid money for tickets. "We have not yet interviewed anyone in connection with this, so we do not know how much is involved."

Pleas by two struck-off doctors fail

Deb Narayan, a former doctor, released from prison earlier this year, had his application to resume practice as a pensioner rejected yesterday by the Disciplinary Committee of the General Medical Council. Dr. Narayan, formerly practising in Station Street East, Coventry, was suspended from the medical register in July last year and his name was erased two months later by the committee.

He had been given a two-month prison sentence on a drink-and-driving charge.

The committee also decided not to restore the name of Philip Matthews Goodrich, now in Christchurch, New Zealand, to the medical register in England. He was fined £800 in March, 1974, for obtaining drugs by deception, unlawfully possessing them and failing to keep a register.

One of the main difficulties is the fact that the minister for sport, Mr. Howell, is in the Department of the Environment, and the Department of Education and Science, which should be helping to create greater participation in sport by the young, say it is nothing to do with them, but a matter for the environment department.

The young fall between two stools.

Sports action line opened to help youth

By Penny Symon

A "sports action line" was opened by the Central Council of Physical Recreation last night to enable young people from anywhere in Britain to receive prompt advice about how to become involved in sport and recreation.

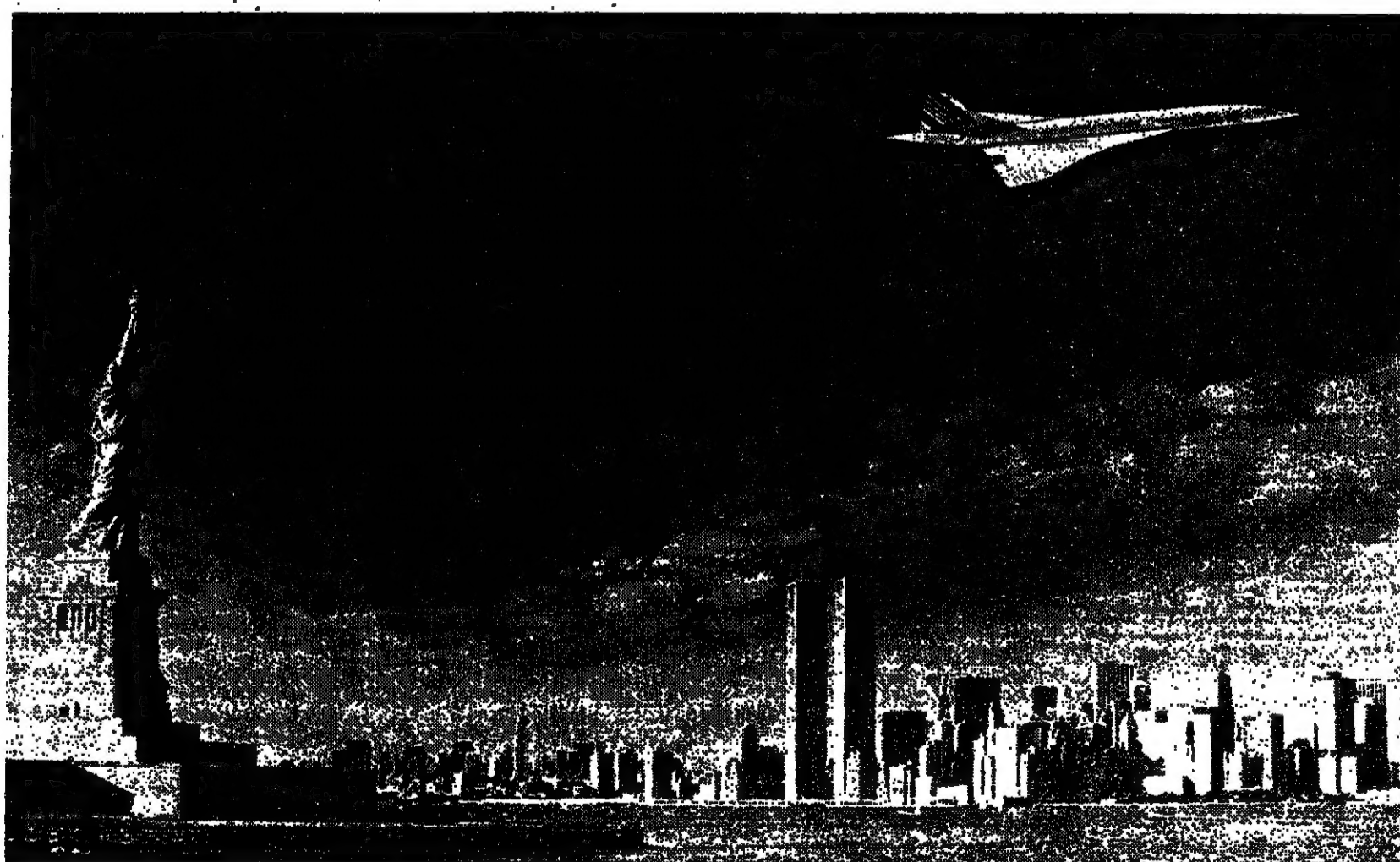
The sports action line, telephone number (01) 534 6631, will be manned from 8 am to 8 pm, with a tape-recording service to take messages during

the night, and was opened at 5 pm yesterday.

Mr. Peter Lawson, the council's general secretary, said in London yesterday that it had produced a 14-point plan designed to foster greater participation and involvement in sport by young people.

"We want action by the Government, schools, local authorities, clubs, so that the young get opportunities for sport otherwise interest will dwindle

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HOME NEWS

Court upholds right of unmarried woman to evict her partner

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Unmarried women have the same right as wives to expel violent men from their homes under the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act, 1976, the Court of Appeal decided yesterday by a majority verdict. The decision overturned the previous judgment of the House of Lords.

The previous judgments ruled that the property rights of the man prevailed over the rights of cohabitants to exclude them, even where they jointly owned or rented the property. The Court of Appeal, however, gave leave to appeal to the House of Lords against its decision and an appeal is expected soon.

That still leaves the interpretation of the Act unclear, and Miss Josephine Richardson, Labour MP for Barking and architect of the new law, promised yesterday to press for the introduction of amending legislation if the Lords overrule the Court of Appeal.

"If the House of Lords take the opposite view, I will immediately seek to get amending legislation to clarify the Act in the way that I intended, and I believe Parliament intended," she said. "The intention always was that cohabiting couples should have the same rights as married couples to exclude violent partners."

She added that she saw the decision as a "blow for freedom" in that it made "clear that the courts no longer see women as the chattels of their men, and it gave cohabiting couples more rights than they had previously enjoyed."

Miss Jennifer Davis, aged 21, whose appeal was allowed yesterday, is staying in the battered wife's refuge in Chiswick with her daughter, Cordelia, aged two. She intends to return on Monday to the flat she



Miss Jennifer Davis.

shared as joint tenant with Mr Nicholas Johnson.

Mrs Tina Gould, a social worker at the refuge, said yesterday that Miss Davis and the other women at the refuge were very pleased with the decision, although the Lords appeal was pending. The decision was also welcomed by the Rights of Women organization, and the National Women's Aid Federation, which coordinates a network of more than 500 refuges for battered women throughout Britain.

The federation said the judgment upheld the original spirit of the Act, but pointed out that there were still uncertainties about its interpretation, which might mean that county court judges would continue to be reluctant to grant exclusion orders where a couple were not married. Other parts of the Act were under stress in practice because some courts were reluctant to attach powers of arrest to exclusion orders, even when they were given in some areas the police were unwilling to enforce them.

Law Report, page 8.

Half of elms in some areas killed by disease

By a Staff Reporter

About 11 million elms are estimated to have been killed by Dutch elm disease in the most seriously affected parts of Britain, according to a report by the Forestry Commission. This is an increase of two million over the past year, and means that nearly half the original 23 million elms in those areas have been killed.

In some areas, such as the West Midlands, Surrey, Hampshire and West Sussex, more than half have been killed. Only in two areas, East Sussex and Devon, have the elms been spared. The disease, which is a fungal infection, has been carried out with reasonable success.

The worst affected areas are south of a line from the Mersey to the Wash, and include parts of Wales. Even outside those areas, there has been a significant increase in Dutch elm disease over the past year. The number of reported cases has been two to five times higher than last year in northern England and western Wales.

Active control campaigns have been stepped in the affected areas, apart from East Sussex and Devon, and the main effort is directed to the clearance of dead elms. In highly affected areas, sanitation felling is being continued, since it can slow down the development of the disease.

Felling campaigns of that sort in parts of northern England and Scotland, which have been in operation for only one or two years, have proved relatively effective. But it has been found that they can be successful only where disease levels are low and where the felling is extremely thorough. The report expresses concern over the possible threat to the health of the elm population in some areas.

It adds that organized replanting schemes are of paramount importance, and that grants are available. Although young elm suckers are as susceptible as older trees to the disease, they may escape infection in areas where the disease has destroyed the bigger trees, the "hosts" for the beetles to breed in.

Mirror chiefs decree

Mr Percy Charles Roberts, aged 41, chief executive of the Mirror Group newspapers, was granted a decree nisi in London yesterday, against his wife, Constance Teresa, aged 51.



Street confrontation: Mr Horace Cutler, leader of the Greater London Council (centre) and Mr David Stimpson, leader of Lambeth council, confronted by an angry resident, Miss Tina Gould, as they inspected a housing improvement scheme in Railton Road, Herne Hill, yesterday. Miss Gould shouted that Lambeth had mismanaged its housing policies and that "millions" of houses were left empty while "people like me are in bed and breakfast". The two men had been in a party of central and local government officials touring the borough of Lambeth (John Young writes). Others in the party included Miss Jackson, Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Science; Mr Grant, Under-Secretary of State, Department of Employment; Mr Moyle, Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security; and Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner

London Education Authority. After their tour, Mr Barnett, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, said government aid for specific inner-city areas was only "the icing on the cake". It should be seen in the context of the Government's programme of concentrating all forms of assistance, notably the rate-support grant, in areas of greatest need and deprivation. He said that singling out certain local authorities for special assistance had presented the Government with some difficult decisions. It seems fairly clear that one reason why Lambeth was chosen for yesterday's tour was concern over the growing black "ghetto" in Brixton, with its attendant unemployment, crime and exploitation. Another was the fact that it has the highest population of any London borough, with an unacceptably high density in several districts.

Inner cities 'damaged by development of new towns'

Support for the contention that inner areas of cities have been socially and economically damaged by the development of new towns is provided in a book published yesterday by the Centre for Environmental Studies.

The authors, Nicholas Deakin and Clare Ungerson, base their conclusions on a study of north London, London. New towns, it is concluded, have some considerable achievements to their credit, but they have attracted predominantly young, skilled, white workers who are

vital to the strength and balance of any community.

While there is no evidence of overt discrimination, there is no doubt that ethnic minorities are under-represented in the new and expanding towns, the authors say. According to the 1971 census only 1.1 per cent of the population of eight first-generation new towns were of New Commonwealth origin, compared with 5.7 per cent in Greater London.

Leaving London, *Planned Mobility* and the *Inner City* (Heinemann, £7.75).

Lord Rosslyn left suicide note, coroner told

Lord Rosslyn, aged 60, who was found dead from gunshot wounds in woods near his home in Berkshire a week ago, left a suicide note it was stated at an inquest at Maidenhead yesterday.

Part of the note, in his handwriting, said: "I have so many problems and decisions to take, even if some of them are magnified in my mind, I ask forgiveness of those who love me and who have tried to help."

Mr Robert Wilson, the East Berkshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Racial discrimination on mortgages alleged

Building societies are said by the Commission for Racial Equality to be applying "mortgage discrimination" against ethnic minorities.

Mr David Lane, chairman of the commission, said in Leeds yesterday that building societies have a responsibility to give mortgages to those qualified to receive them.

"We are disturbed that building societies tend to look unfavourably on applications for houses where ethnic minorities are concentrated," he said. "Not only had local authorities to be fair allocating houses but the building societies also had a responsibility to be fair in giving mortgages."

It is a disturbing fact that building societies look very unfavourably on giving mortgages in areas where there are concentrations of ethnic minorities, in spite of the fact that houses they would otherwise have mortgaged are still available in these areas in large numbers."

Mr Lane said building societies in different parts of the country had a policy of not agreeing to mortgages in certain areas.

Mr Lane spoke of the activities of the National Front in schools and said there would be a special meeting in London tomorrow. "We are organizing activities against these thoroughly pernicious, evil

tionately higher levels of unemployment.

"It is our intention to do all we can to encourage employers, both in the private and public sectors, to adopt policies of equal opportunity in recruitment, appointment and promotion," he said.

"We cannot but help notice that after 30 years of immigration a large body of people from the minority groups still work in the mills, where night shifts are common; on the buses, where split shifts are common; and in foundries and the chemical industry, where working conditions are extremely unpleasant."

Mr Ralph Stow, chairman of the Building Societies' Association, later described Mr Lane's remarks on building societies as exaggerated and unfortunate.

He said: "There are only two matters that we consider when dealing with mortgage applications: the report of the surveyor on the property in question, and the financial status of the applicant."

"We do not ask any questions about ethnic origins and we are not aware of them."

Mr Stow said some inner-city properties were not suitable for purchase, and it was possible that some immigrant groups gravitated towards very poor parts.

But we do not consider the colour of a man or woman, or ethnic origins. We have a statutory obligation to carry out a survey of a property, and that is what we consider."

He said the commission had exaggerated its criticism was a generalization and "very unfortunate".

Community job for men who had knives

Stephen Heffernan, aged 18, a white man, who has been threatened with being sent to a detention centre for threatening a coloured man with a knife at the Notting Hill carnival, was sentenced yesterday to 60 hours' community service work.

Mr Roderick Romain, the Marylebone magistrate, had remanded Mr Heffernan, an accounts clerk, of Birch Hill, Bracknell, Berkshire, at the last hearing for reports after he had been found guilty of having an offensive weapon.

Arvel Ford, aged 18, a coloured storeman from Bethnal Green, London, who had also been threatened with a detention centre when found guilty of threatening behaviour and having a knife at the carnival was ordered to do 100 hours' community service work and pay £35 costs.

More areas get work schemes for offenders

The community service scheme is being expanded on Thursday to 23 more areas in eight counties of England and Wales. The expansion, promised in the Chancellor's financial measures in October, means that the scheme will function in all or part of 55 out of 56 probation service regions of England and Wales.

The new areas will include parts of Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Northumberland, Suffolk, North Wales and Powys.

Under the scheme a court can make a community service order on an offender aged 17 or over who is convicted of an offence for which he could otherwise be imprisoned. If the offender consents to the order he is required to carry out a specified number of hours on approved community work in his spare time.

Holidays for disabled

From Tim Jones

Local authorities were urged yesterday to help in providing annual holidays for some of the 15 million people in Britain who are unable to take a vacation for reasons of disability, infirmity or poverty.

Mr Barry Jones, Under-Secretary of State for Wales, who was addressing a conference in Cardiff on social tourism, said the authorities should be urged to use the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act, 1970, when their financial circumstances improved.

Mr Jones told the conference,

organised by the Wales Tourist Council, "There now exists an awareness that the disadvantaged have a particular need for a holiday. Sadly, it is the low-paid, the elderly, and the physically handicapped who are least likely to be able to afford a holiday."

He suggested that more initiative could be taken in offering low-cost holidays to underprivileged groups from September to May, and called for the establishment of a social tourism award for those who do most to help the underprivileged.

Anxiety over imported TV programmes

By Kenneth Goaling

The Radio and Television Safety Committee, which comprises trade union and professional bodies concerned with broadcasting, is seeking an urgent meeting with Sir Brian Young, Director-General of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, about what it calls "the disproportionate amount of foreign and old cinema material appearing on British television."

The committee is concerned about "persistent rumours" that the authority intends to cut the quota of foreign material from 14 to 12 per cent, but that EEC material will henceforth count as British and that Canadian and North American material, formerly regarded as British, will be classified as foreign.

Mr Peter Plouffe, general secretary of Equity, the actors' union, said yesterday: "We have no doubt that this Christmas will once again see both the BBC and ITV relying on old films as their main attractions."

The authority agreed that discussion, still in their early stages, were going on to see whether it would be possible to increase the amount of home-produced material, thus reducing the import of programmes.

Mental health test case may affect thousands

By Our Social Services Correspondent

An industrial tribunal hearing which is regarded as a test case on the rights of former psychiatric patients to employment in the private sector will open in Liverpool today. The result is expected to affect most of the 180,000 patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals, many of whom seek jobs.

The tribunal will consider whether Mr Henry O'Brien was unfairly dismissed from his job as a district insurance agent after he had told his employers that he had a history of mental illness. He is being supported by Mind, the organization for mental health, which is campaigning for a radical change in attitudes by employers and the general public towards employment for the mentally ill.

Mr O'Brien worked for the Prudential Assurance Company for almost a year before he disclosed his medical history. Until then he had been regarded as a conscientious and reliable employee, according to Mr Larry Goslin, Mind's legal adviser, who will represent Mr O'Brien at the tribunal hearing.

The disclosure that he had a history of mild mental illness, including two periods in hos-

£7.8m plan for new canal link

By Annabel Ferriman

A campaign to persuade the Government to back a £7.8m scheme for a new water transport route for South Yorkshire was launched yesterday by the British Waterways Board and South Yorkshire County Council.

The board wants to improve 35km of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation from Totherham to Bramwith in order to link Rotherham and Sheffield with the Humber ports.

At present about 500,000 tons of steel, glass, wire, coal, coke, sugar and grain are carried up the waterway each year, but loads of more than 30 tons cannot go beyond Doncaster.

If 10 locks were improved, five bridges widened or removed and sharp curves and other restrictions on larger craft reduced, the route would be able to take loads of 400-700 tons. It is estimated that the annual total could be increased by 2,400,000 tons.

The board has been told that it could qualify for a 30 per cent grant from the EEC Regional Development Fund, which would amount to £2.3m. It also estimates that the cost of bringing the neglected waterway up to the standard required by law would be another £2.4m, so the Government is being asked to provide only an extra £3m for the improvements.

Representatives from the board are to meet two groups of MPs tomorrow to put their case: the Yorkshire MPs and the all-party waterways group. It is also seeking a meeting with Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, in January.

Mr Kenneth Sampey, deputy leader of South Yorkshire County Council, said yesterday that the council was supporting the scheme because it would attract industry to the area and might provide anything up to 7,500 jobs. For a cost equivalent to only a mile of urban motorway, it would also give an environmental uplift to a very deprived area.

Mr David McCance, general manager of the British Waterways Board, said it had been wanting to improve the navigation since 1966, but the Government had always said that the time was not right.

The Government wanted a rate of return on that scheme of 15 per cent, even though the return required on other transport infrastructure investment projects was less than 10 per cent.

A cost-benefit analysis reflecting wider advantages to the area of the scheme had indicated a return of 19-20 per cent, but the actual financial return was assessed at 10-11 per cent, he added.

County celebrates European links

In a few days' time schools and colleges in Leicestershire will start celebrating a European week which will culminate in the presentation to the county council on December 9 of a flag of honour awarded by the Council of Europe. It is a recognition of the county's commitment to Europe, and particularly, the education department's efforts in fostering knowledge of the European Community.

Franco-German cheese and wine parties will be held throughout the county, there will be music recitals and concerts, and suitable changes in school meal menus.

Leicestershire has been singled out for the award mainly because of the close educational links that have been established with the Seine Maritime department in France and the Saarland in West Germany. The French connexion started in 1963 and the West German one in 1973.

Mr Andrew Fairbairn, the director of education, said four residential centres in and around Dieppe had been used for group visits, and links developed with schools and the Academy of Rennes.

During the last academic year 2,600 children from Leicestershire spent a week at the centres.

Mr Fairbairn said: "Obviously, the main benefit of this and the West German

Regional report

Arthur Osman
Leicester

link, derives from motivating youngsters to learn the languages, but it also helps enormously in European studies if they have actually worked with French and German children across the Channel. They soon find out, for instance, that not all the French eat frog's legs, and horse meat. On the other hand, some find out, for the first time, that some do."

Each year, between ten and twenty sixth-form students from Leicestershire have the opportunity to spend a whole term in French lycée. Apart from school contracts, there has been an increase in the number of twinning arrangements between towns and villages.

The pattern has been similar in the Saarland, although the link is more recent. Leicestershire children spend a week working alongside children from Saarbrücken in a residential centre.

The centre was used by four hundred local pupils during the last year. Mr Fairbairn said that teachers' courses had

been organized, and a group of secondary school head teachers would soon spend a week in the Saarland to study the secondary school system there. A return visit would be paid by West German teachers. Plans were in hand for exchange visits by youth groups and youth leaders. As with France, there had been cultural links; recently, Leicestershire musicians had participated in several concerts, including a performance in Bonn which was broadcast live by West German radio. A drama group had put on a series of performances in the Saarland.

Mr Fairbairn continued: "There now exist official links with the Seine Maritime and Saarland, both of which have been sealed by documents signed in ceremonies in Leicester, Rouen, and the Saarland. These are declarations of intent signed by our chairman, the Prefect of the Seine Maritime, and the minister of education in the Saarland. The education links are part of a broader interest shown by Leicestershire in establishing international contacts, of which the most obvious manifestation was the staging in Leicestershire last year of Europa Cantat VI, the largest choral festival for young singers in Europe, which attracted well over 2,000 Europeans to sing for 10 days in Leicester."

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WEST EUROPE

Polish Communist Party leader in Rome for visit which will include talk with Pope

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Nov. 28. Mr. Edward Giersek, the Polish party leader, arrived here today on a visit to which much importance is attached both for Polish-Italian relations and because of the unprecedented call he will make on the Pope.

He was met at the airport by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister. He will see the Pope on Thursday after his official visit to Italy has ended. It will be the first time that a Polish party leader has been to the Vatican.

Most of the past three decades have been marked by hostility between Warsaw and the Vatican. In part, the promise of better relations is due to internal problems in Poland, particularly economic problems which have convinced Mr

Giersek that help from the Church is essential to his Government.

The visit is also one of the more tangible results of the Vatican's patient diplomacy in East Europe aimed at giving the Roman Catholic Church the necessary freedom in which to work. In the meantime, the Polish bishops, led by Cardinal Wyszyński, have made a series of agreements with the Polish authorities, the latest in 1971. While such has proved increasingly favourable to the Church's position, the Vatican still wants to see more progress before relations with Poland can be regarded as normal, and formally recognized as such.

The crucial meeting at which Mr Giersek and Cardinal Wyszyński discussed the possibility of a degree of cooperation in the national interest

took place on October 29. This was the first meeting between the cardinal and a leader of the Communist Party for seven years.

The official communiqué stated that they had exchanged points of view "on the most important problems of the nation and the church which have capital importance for the unity of the Poles in the work of the construction of prosperity in People's Poland". The text was printed in the newspapers and broadcast for two days.

Shortly afterwards, Mr Giersek left for Moscow where, he attended the sixtieth anniversary of the Russian revolution and had the opportunity of reporting on his religious policy to the Russians. The Polish bishops came to Rome for their regular five-yearly visit to the Vatican and were re-

ceived by the Pope on November 12.

The cardinal naturally would have wanted to give a complete account of the Vatican of his dealings with the Polish authorities well in advance of Mr Giersek's arrival.

Unlike the situation in the rest of East Europe, the Church in Poland is strong. Thirty-three million out of 35 million Poles are Catholic. It is estimated that 70 out of 100 young people go to church. The number of seminary students has risen from 4,088 in 1971 to 4,500 in 1976.

Because of this strength and the identification of Catholicism with the country's nationhood the Catholic Church in Poland has not been reduced in the way other Catholics have suffered from the communist world. Leading article, page 15

Navarra divided on Basque issue

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Nov. 28. The conservative National Alliance Party today published an appeal to Spain's political leaders to prevent strife in the northern province of Navarra after a political rift between the pro-Madrid and pro-Basque factions.

The Basque separatist organization ETA assassinated the local chief of the National security police in the provincial capital, Pamplona, on Saturday night. The extremist attack, although it was condemned by the main political parties of the Basque country, was the spark which set off anti-Basque demonstrations on Sunday and today, involving as many as 2,000 people at a time. The demonstrations reflected a division of opinion among residents of the province about whether Navarra should be included in the Basque region, which is about to win provisional home rule, or whether the province should continue to be an administrative dependency of the central Government in Madrid.

Navarra, once a kingdom in its own right, was historically associated with the other three Basque provinces, did not form a part of the independent Basque state which was formed at the time of the Spanish civil war. Its Carlist forces fought fiercely on the side of General Franco, although the Carlist movement later became an enemy of the Franco regime.

Both the National Alliance, headed by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, and the Centre Democratic Union, which brought Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, to power, have been pursuing a divide-and-conquer policy on the issue of Basque autonomy. Navarra, the only Basque province where the Madrid-oriented conservative parties have any appreciable strength.

Demonstrations continued throughout the afternoon in Pamplona today, after the funeral of Major Joaquín Imaiz, who was shot dead by Basque terrorists on the day on which Basque measures of democratic elections were given their approval to the text that will grant provisional home rule to the region.

A military chaplain attached to the security police forces poured fuel on the fire with a sermon in which he alleged that such an assassination would not have taken place during General Franco's rule and praised the rough security police as "guardians of peace". After the funeral, demonstrators marched to the offices of the provincial government, where officials reacted to their angry demands to display the Spanish and Navarra flags.

The killing not only deepened the split between centralists and home-rulers; it isolated further the extreme left wing of Basque nationalism, including minority parties that openly support the ETA.

In a statement the Basque Socialist Party called the killing not only a crime but a political mistake "which might induce the Navarra people to decide against the incorporation of that area into the Basque community."

Paris denies Croissant jail beating

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Nov. 28. The French Ministry of Justice today denied that Herr Klaus Croissant, the lawyer for the Baader-Meinhof group, extradited to West Germany on November 16, had been assaulted by warders just before leaving the Santé prison in Paris.

One of his three French counsel, Mme Schmidlin, who had just returned from seeing him in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, told a congress of the Syndicat de la Magistrature in Rennes that he had been beaten and given an anaesthetic because he protested at being extradited before his appeal had been heard.

Mme Schmidlin had managed to get him back to his cell. His lawyers were outside the prison, and that if attempts were made to extradite him that same evening, he should resist and call for the prison director. "He struggled against the warders," she said, "and was thrown to the ground, and his arms were pinioned. He said the appeal was ready—in this cell, and he was allowed to fetch it and hand it over to the deputy governor. But when he realized this would be of no avail, he again kicked up a

Herr Kohl strengthens his position

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Nov. 28. Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic Opposition leader, was given his party's full support today despite earlier suggestions that Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Christian Social Union leader, would make a better Opposition candidate for the Chancellorship in the 1980 elections.

A meeting of 225 CDU and CSU leaders thus put an end, at least for the time being, to what is called a superficially unfounded and damaging dispute between supporters of the two men.

The argument had developed inadvertently out of mounting criticism of Herr Kohl's leadership, regarded by some as weak, hesitant and colourless.

Several leading Opposition members found it necessary to emphasize that his position and the Christian Democratic Party's position were inseparable. At this point, Herr Fritz Zimmermann, Bundestag leader of the CSU, declared that his chief was just as strong a potential candidate as Herr Kohl.

The issue reached a climax last week when Herr Strauss announced that he would run this year for the post of Prime Minister of Bavaria. This is seen as a strategically powerful position from which to launch a bid for the national leadership when the time comes.

Although Herr Strauss says he is not climbing on the "candidates' merry-go-round",

he has made it clear he is not going to bury himself in Bavaria. "They will not be rid of me so quickly on the Rhine," he said.

Although Herr Kohl certainly lacks the personality of the colourful and irrepressible Herr Strauss, he is probably much stronger than he seems. Of a moderate outlook, he can reconcile different interests in the party and appeal to a much wider spectrum of the electorate than Herr Strauss, who arouses as much dislike as he does admiration.

Simple adjectives such as "good" and "honest" are frequently applied to Herr Kohl, and many believe he would be a much better Chancellor than Strauss. He certainly enjoys the confidence of the public; an opinion poll last week put him far ahead of Herr Strauss both in the electorate generally and among CDU-CSU voters.

Nevertheless, Herr Strauss, who was extremely reluctant to accept Herr Kohl as Opposition leader, is seen to be in training for a future attempt to displace him. He has been travelling a good deal, and his mission to improve party members' say, his not always flattering image abroad and build up his reputation here.

He ran into trouble, however, during his recent visit to Chile, where he expressed a pathetic understanding for General Pinochet's regime, which he saw as a victim of an international campaign of lies and slander, earned him bitter

criticism at home and from Chilean Christian Democrats.

With fears of yet another setback in the 1980 elections, there are also plans for the CSU to move out of its traditional boundaries of Bavaria and form alliances with small moderate groups which have broken away from the Social Democrats in various places.

The aim is to "mop up" pools of votes which could make all the difference, given the narrow margin between the two big parties.

Meanwhile, a third figure is hovering on the edge of the dispute: Herr Alfred Dregger, the CDU leader in Hesse. He is a tough-talking right winger like Herr Strauss and is seen as a possible alternative for the right wing if Herr Strauss should prove too divisive a figure to be a serious candidate. Like Herr Strauss, he has studiously avoided ruling out his becoming a candidate.

The dispute is damaging the image of the Opposition just as the parties are preparing for a batch of Land elections during the coming year. Herr Kohl said in a radio interview at the weekend that quarrelling was the most stupid thing he could do at the moment.

The CDU is hoping in particular to wrest Hesse from the Social Democrats, who have ruled there for many years. Herr Strauss is expected to win another big Land election, but performance during the next 12 months should decide, as much as anything, who will lead it in the 1980 elections.

Students protest at Bonn law limiting study years

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Nov. 28. Students at about half of West German universities and colleges today began a two-week boycott of lectures to protest at a federal law limiting the number of years they may study.

The students assert that the law is considerably more restrictive than the conditions prevailing in many places at present.

It enables the academic authorities to suspend troublesome students, a power which they fear could be abused. It has been used by two conservative Länder to abolish the local equivalent of student unions and ensure that professors have a decisive voice on teaching, research and appointments, whereas in some places, such as Bremen, students and non-teaching staff had equal weight.

Students in various places and minor disturbances were reported in Cologne and Düsseldorf. Elsewhere lectures went on as usual.

The National Union of Students, who called the boycott, claimed that 120 of the 153 universities and colleges had joined in and another 20 were planning to do so later. Support in these places was running at about 80 per cent, it was said.

The conservative Christian Democratic Students' Association claimed that the boycott had failed.

A spokesman for the West German Rectors' Conference said that the boycott was unjustified and the students' criticisms were exaggerated. He added, however, that the conference, on which all universities

and colleges are represented, had opposed the dissolution of student union.

The law has dealt another blow to the old tradition in German universities where students could take as long as they wished, or could afford, to study, and even study at one university to another to seek the best teachers.

The *ruiger Student* (eternal student) who cannot bring himself to stop studying and face the world, was once a common feature at German universities. Restrictions on the number of years in many places in recent years have discouraged the wandering habit. Now students will be given only four years to complete their studies unless they can show good reasons why they should take longer. This compares with an average of about six and a half years in the past.

The main aim is to create more college places—there are about 200,000—but students feel they will be channelled at high pressure through the universities without any time to broaden their studies or even to have any life of their own.

The law, passed by the Federal Parliament last year, is a framework legislation which the 11 Land governments are in the process of applying to their territories. Inevitably the interpretation of the law depends on the political views of the Land governments.

The 11 Land governments are in the process of applying to their territories. Inevitably the interpretation of the law depends on the political views of the Land governments.

France kills EEC beef prices plan

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Nov. 28. In the face of intense French pressure, the European Commission has reported to have abandoned, at least for the time being, its proposal for a new system of support for the beef market of the kind that has been allowed hitherto only in Britain.

The purpose of the Commission's proposals is to allow EEC consumers to benefit from lower shop prices when beef is in abundant supply, by allowing importation and sale of beef from outside the Community, and the accumulation of large beef stockpiles throughout the Community.

In spite of strong support from European consumer groups, Mr. P. O. Godech, the Commissioner for Agriculture, is understood to have come to the conclusion that there is little point in trying to secure agreement for the proposal, which would be a first step towards further difficulties since then in the special committee on agriculture.

There was an immediate hostile response to the reform proposals from the French who were first to announce and they have refused to further difficulties since then in the special committee on agriculture.

At present, in all EEC countries except Britain, intervention agencies automatically buy up beef for cold storage when market prices fall below 90 per cent of a target price. Under the reform proposed by the Commission, intervention would occur at a lower level, and producers' returns being maintained by direct cash subsidies or "deficiency payments" of the British type.

Under the reform proposed by the Commission, intervention would occur at a lower level, and producers' returns being maintained by direct cash subsidies or "deficiency payments" of the British type.

Nine end dispute over aid to poorest nations

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Nov. 28. The EEC agreed today to contribute \$385m (about £213m) to the \$1,000m emergency aid which industrialized countries pledged to provide to the world's poorest nations at the North-South dialogue in Paris in June.

Agreement was reached with difficulty because of a dispute among the Nine over the conditions to be attached to the aid before it is transferred to the International Development Association.

Under a compromise, the money will go to the agreed list of 36 countries with a per capita income of \$280 or less, and no more than 50 per cent can go to any one continent or 20 per cent to any one country. The second condition answers French fear that most of the aid would be given to Asia, and particularly India, instead of former French colonies in Africa.

OVERSEAS

Professor's evidence on causes of Biko death

From Nicholas Ashford

Pretoria, Nov. 28.

The eleventh day of the inquest on Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, dwelt largely on detailed medical evidence concerning the exact cause of his death.

In his second day of evidence, Professor Neville Proctor, one of South Africa's most respected and experienced neuropathologists, said there could be no doubt that Mr Biko's death while in police custody was caused by head injury, although he might have actually died of the complications that arose from this.

So far as he was aware, on the evidence placed before him, these complications would not have set in had head injury not occurred. Among the complications he named were uraemia, kidney failure, swelling of the brain (edema).

Under cross-examination by Mr P. R. van Rooyen, counsel for the police, Professor Proctor, who is head of the department of pathology at the University of the Witwatersrand, said he had come to the conclusion after examining Mr Biko's brain that more than one application of force had been involved, but he was not sure of the exact sequence of blows. He agreed he could not be certain about this, however.

"I had it clear in my mind that more than one application of force was involved, but I was not sure of the exact sequence of blows," he said. This was why he had not mentioned this matter in a report he submitted to a group of doctors, including the chief state pathologist, on October 29.

Professor Proctor added that the group of doctors discussing the post-mortem examination on Mr Biko decided to leave the question open whether one or more blows were involved. This was why it was decided to write in the post-mortem report that death was due to head injury and not to a head injury or head injuries.

During his cross-examination, Professor Proctor was asked by Mr van Rooyen whether a member of the medical team retained by the Biko family had gone overseas to "clean information" on the mechanics of the blows. He said that he had not seen any of the family members, but he had seen a member of the family, Mr van Rooyen, who had been in the country.

At this point Mr Sydney Kenridge, counsel for the Biko family, interjected to say that the subject of the overseas journey had been mentioned by him only in "confidential consultations and private telephone calls". He would be interested to know the source of Mr van Rooyen's information. "No doubt he has available an extensive network which can give him this information," he added.

Mr van Rooyen said he did not wish to draw any "conclusions" from the overseas journey, but he was not taken any further.

Later during today's hearing Dr Andries van Zyl, the Pretoria district surgeon who examined Mr Biko on September 12, the day he died, told the court that he was not aware that Mr Biko had shown signs of brain damage when examined in Port Elizabeth. Mr Biko was taken from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria by road some 14 hours before he died.

Under cross-examination by Mr Kenridge, Dr van Zyl said Mr Biko was in a "bad condition" when he saw him in Pretoria. He said that he was told that Mr Biko was in need of urgent care. The only treatment he had ordered was a drip and vitamin injections.



A museum director admires the tusks of a mammoth found during drainage work on a collective farm near Kirov in the Soviet Union.

Lawyers' warning on Soviet trials

Rome, Nov. 28.—Western

lawyers acting for prominent Soviet dissidents said in Rome today that they would hold parallel trials in London and New York if they were barred from defending their jailed clients in Moscow.

They were giving evidence on the last day of the Second International Sakharov Hearings, a Copenhagen-based committee named after Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet Nobel prize winner, to monitor human rights in East Europe.

"If I am not allowed to go to Moscow I will prove at a public trial in London that my client is innocent," Mr John Macdonald, defending Mr Yuri Orlov, arrested in Moscow last February, was the founder of the unofficial Soviet committee set up in 1975 to watch compliance with the 1975 Helsinki document on human rights.

Lawyers acting for two other members of the Helsinki watch group, Mr Alexander Ginzburg

and Mr Anatoly Shchwarzsky, the Jewish mathematician, told the hearings they had been refused visas to go to Moscow to work on the defence.

Mr Gregory Craig, one of the American lawyers acting for Mr Ginzburg, said that a public trial was planned in New York if the Soviet authorities refused representation in Moscow.

Mr Daniel Jacobi, a French lawyer, said that his client, Mr Shchwarzsky, was facing charges of treason under article 64 of the Soviet penal code which carries a possible death sentence.

"We have twice been refused a visa and have learnt that our client has only a lawyer if he pleads guilty," Mr Jacobi said. Mr Burton Hall, a lawyer from New York, said that he was expelled from the Soviet Union last month when he tried to gain access to establish contact with the mother of Mr Alexander Sergeenko, another jailed dissident.

Mr Macdonald said that the Orlov case had made world opinion aware of the fact that the Soviet authorities did not even respect their own "harsh laws."

He expected that Mr Orlov would be released in a few weeks under the provisions of the recent amnesty.

"This is the price the Soviet Government is going to have to pay if it wishes détente to continue," Mr Macdonald added a quote from Senator Robert Dole, of the United States: "If the Soviet Union is to prepare for the future, it must let them set their own wheat."

The wives of Mr Orlov and Mr Ginzburg smuggled taped pleas for Western support to the closing session of the Rome hearings. Mrs Ginzburg said that she feared for her husband's life because he was suffering from a gastric ulcer and tuberculosis at the time of this arrest last February.—Reuter and AP.

Mission to heal rift in Arab world

By Our Foreign Staff

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are entering on a joint mission to prevent a deterioration of relations among the Arab countries, which are bitterly divided over President Sadat's overtures to Israel.

Announcing this yesterday, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed, Foreign Minister of Kuwait, did not say when the mission would begin, but he hoped its representations would bear fruit. He said Kuwait had been invited to the anti-Sadat meeting in Tripoli this week, but had not yet decided whether to attend.

Iraq has also proposed an Arab summit of the countries opposed to President Sadat's peace efforts, to be held in Baghdad next week. The Iraqi news agency reported.

The agency said the proposed talks would include representatives of Algeria, Libya, South Yemen, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Rejection Front.

A Lebanese newspaper reported yesterday that Iraq had decided to attend the Tripoli meeting this week with leaders of Syria, Algeria, South Yemen, the PLO and Libya.

Egypt and Israel appear to be the only two countries likely to attend the meeting in Cairo next Saturday called by President Sadat to prepare for a Geneva peace conference.

Egypt's invitation to Israel was launched by its permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, Dr Ismar Abdel-Meguid, to Israel's permanent representative, Mr.

Haim Herzog—the first direct contact between the Egyptian and Israeli permanent representatives.

A senior Foreign Ministry source in Cairo described Saturday's meeting as a "mini-Geneva" at the level of experts rather than ministers. It would be "informal" and not bound by procedures of the Geneva conference "otherwise it would take months to prepare it."

The agenda will be discussed and prepared by the parties "in the form of a series of papers," the source said. He drew attention to the fact that the "mini-Geneva" had been enlarged to include the PLO and Lebanon.

Asked whether Egypt had invited Palestinian leaders to the West Bank of the River Jordan and in the Gaza strip, he said: "No, the invitation for the conference was sent only to the PLO. It is their problem to sort out who, if any, will attend."

Israel announced last night that it could attend Saturday's meeting only if the talks were attended by all the parties to the Middle East conflict.

Similarly, Jordan would attend the Tripoli meeting only if all the Arab states took part. Earlier, King Hussein had praised the "great courage" of President Sadat and said Egypt's initiatives had broken down barriers that hindered a just settlement and peace in the Middle East.

He called on Arab leaders to "unity ranks and prevent a destructive division."

Mr Fuad Butros, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, yesterday

confirmed that Lebanon had received an invitation from Cairo for Saturday's meeting, but said no decision had been made on Beirut's reply.

Government sources said it was virtually certain Lebanon would not attend and would also avoid the Tripoli meeting. "When the Arabs disagree, we stand to the side," a government source said. "We want to stay neutral in this."

President Carter and Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, yesterday discussed the latest Middle East peace moves. Mr Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, said Mr Carter felt the United States could move toward its goals of peace in the Middle East "most appropriately by maintaining a lower profile and working quietly behind the scenes to accentuate the positive developments and minimize the difficulties."

"If the momentum is kept going, it may not be important whether the Geneva conference gets under way before January," Mr Powell said.

In Damascus, President Assad said differences between Syria and Egypt did not mean they were torn apart. Answering a question, he said "divorce" was the wrong word to use in the context.

"We have different points of view on the methods for working for peace," he said. "We believe a great and dangerous mistake has been made and we are still opposed to the Egyptian direction which will prolong the conflict."

Guerrilla camp bombed again on second day

Continued from page 1

"I rolled and rolled across the ground and hid under a bush and then a bomb dropped on the spot where I had just been. I rolled again and fell into a pit and broke my arm. I had to lie in the mud."

"Now people were running in all directions and helicopters were firing at random and the jets were moving up and down. I was ordered to start on my headquarter's area on Base No 2 simultaneously. We walked and walked. The last two jets that day came about 6 o'clock."

By now a group of about 240 Zimbabweans, many of them wounded had gathered together.

They bedded down in the bush and at 4 o'clock they started walking again. Many had to be carried. They reached Chimomo about 8 o'clock that evening. No one remembers clearly how many jets and helicopters took part in the attack. Several of the men talked of seven helicopters.

After the first bombing, Rhodesian troops started landing by parachute and from helicopters. Survivors said they began shooting all over the place and fired at children who had been at their classes when the attack began. The camp clinic was shut up and few of the patients got away. For periods the fighting was

extremely fierce, with some black Rhodesians using pangas like weapons, chopping out at the Zimbabweans.

On the second day, Thursday, the bombers returned at 5.45 am and helicopters were again seen moving around the area several times. At one point around midday at least seven plumes of smoke could be seen from Chimomo.

As the injured were rounded up on the edges of the area they were picked up by Chimomo's small, near ambulances and taken to the local hospital. The director of the hospital was away in Maputo, so the clinic director, Dr Danuella

Santos, found herself in charge. For her it was not a new experience. Last year she had helped to tend the victims of the Nyazonia attack when about 700 refugees were killed.

In her hospital the injured were lying everywhere. In the emergency casualty room—not much bigger than a large sitting room—a woman was face down on a couch while a boiler was extracted from her back. Another woman, bullet wounds in the chest, lay on the floor, still on the stretcher made of branches of a tree, on which she had been carried through the bush.

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Mr Karamanlis names his new Cabinet

From Our Own Correspondent

Athens, Nov. 28.

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, whose New Democracy won a majority in parliament in the recent Greek elections on November 20, set up his new Cabinet today. The ministers took the oath of office in the presence of President Tsatsos this evening.

The most important appointment was that of Mr Constantine Karamanlis's trusted collaborator, Mr. P. K. Karamanlis, to the hitherto vacant post of Deputy Prime Minister. It is a move that seems to settle, for the time being at least, the problem of party succession.

Another significant move is the appointment of Mr George Kondoniorgas as Minister in Charge of the negotiations with the EEC in conjunction with Mr Panayotis Papaligouras,

who was moved from the Ministry of Coordination to the Foreign Ministry for this purpose.

Earlier Mr Karamanlis submitted his government's resignation to President Tsatsos who asked him to form a new government as leader of the majority party.

This was the seventh government to be formed by Mr Karamanlis. He has completed a total of 12 years as Prime Minister, after winning a parliamentary majority in five general elections. He has been in politics for 43 years.

While the new Government was being formed the parliamentary group of the Democratic Centre Union, which lost its position as the main opposition party, accepted the resignation of Mr George Mavros from the party leadership and proclaimed him honorary chairman.

The party group, which consists of 15 deputies, is to meet tomorrow to choose a successor. There are two candidates so far: Mr John Pemszoglou, a well-known economist, and Mr John Zigdis, a former minister who was jailed during the dictatorship.

The new Cabinet is: Prime Minister: Constantine Karamanlis; Deputy Prime Minister: Constantine Karamanlis; Foreign Affairs: George Kondoniorgas; Defence: Evangelos Averoff; Justice: George Stamatopoulos; Education: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Interior: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Agriculture: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Health: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Labour: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Social Welfare: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Culture and Religion: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Science and Technology: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Sports: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Youth: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Veterans: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Women: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Children: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Families: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Elderly: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Disabled: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Sick: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Poor: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Unemployed: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Migrants: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Refugees: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Prisoners: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Exiles: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Returnees: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Repatriates: Christodoulos Stratiotis; Immigrants

OVERSEAS

Japanese Premier appoints new Cabinet in move to avert crisis over huge trade surplus

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 28

Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, appointed his new Cabinet today in a move to avert a crisis over the country's deteriorating trade relations with its western trading partners. He dismissed his Cabinet this morning and immediately indicated a team of economic experts into his new Council of Ministers.

After being sworn in at the Imperial Palace this afternoon, the new Cabinet met for the first time tonight, ostensibly to work out additional means of reducing Japan's massive and embarrassing trade surplus this year. The rising value of the yen is threatening to plunge the economy, dominated by an increasingly uncompetitive export industry, into a deeper recession.

There is also growing apprehension that the United States and Europe might introduce protective measures to contain Japanese exports. Several respected economists, businessmen and politicians, including the Prime Minister, have declared publicly that Japan is now entering a critical phase of economic tension, reminiscent of the era preceding the Second World War.

Prominent newspapers have gone so far as to suggest that "idle nations", such as the United States, Britain and other Western European countries, might eventually encircle

Japan with an economic blockade.

While Japan's growing apprehensions are not likely to lead to an immediate or dramatic crisis, there can be little doubt that Mr. Fukuda's new Cabinet will have to take some decisive steps within the next few weeks.

President Carter's special trade representative, Mr. Robert Strauss, is expected to arrive in Tokyo next month to discuss Japan's trade surplus. During the past month American officials, visiting politicians and businessmen have warned Japan that demands for protectionism might grow out of hand unless Japan takes drastic steps to import more manufactured goods.

Mr. Fukuda retained only two members of the previous Cabinet in his new Council of Ministers. Two economic experts were given key posts.

Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, a bureaucrat turned politician, a former Minister of International Trade and Industry and a former Foreign Minister, takes over the Economic Planning Agency.

Mr. Nobukiko Ushiba, a career diplomat and former Ambassador to the United States, assumes the newly created post of State Minister for External Economic Affairs. One of the Prime Minister's closest confidantes, Mr. Sunao Suoeda, aged 65, replaces Mr

Uchiro Hatoyama as Foreign Minister.

Mr. Toshio Komoto, a former businessman, has been handed the portfolio for International Trade and Industry and Mr. Tatsu Murayama, a former bureaucrat from the Finance Ministry, takes over as Japan's new Minister for Finance.

Mr. Fukuda is reported to have told the Cabinet tonight that the economy, hit by a slowdown in domestic demand and a decline in medium-sized exports, holds out little room for optimism. He cited the main problems as trade relations with the United States, growing unemployment and a continuing slump in the economy.

Prices on the Tokyo stock exchange shot upwards today. However, many independent economists described the Prime Minister's move as a cosmetic solution to Japan's internal and external trade problems. Western diplomats were also sceptical whether new faces in the Cabinet will provide Japan's trading partners with hope.

Today's new Japanese Cabinet includes: Prime Minister, Takeo Fukuda; Foreign Minister, Toshio Komoto; Finance Minister, Tatsu Murayama; International Trade and Industry Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa; Health and Welfare Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Education Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Labour Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Home Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Justice Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Defence Minister, Tatsu Murayama; Chief Cabinet Secretary, Tatsu Murayama.

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Bomb scene police manhandled

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Nov 28

The Ankara staff of Professor Nuri Saryal, Rector of the Middle East Technical University, was bombed today. The explosion broke windows but no one was injured. Right-wing militants were thought to be responsible.

The attack took place despite the presence of half a dozen policemen round the building. Neighbours said they saw several young men chatting with the officers immediately after the bombing. They shouted for them to be held, but the youths jumped into a car and drove away.

It was the eighth bomb attack in two months against the university staff and the second against Mr Saryal.

Mr Saryal later said that irate witnesses manhandled the policemen on the scene for their apparent unwillingness to detain the alleged bombers.

Mr Durmus Yalcin, the Governor of Ankara, said this evening that the five police and one night watchman posted round the rector's house were taken off duty pending an administrative investigation into their conduct.

Debrett's stumbles in quest for Carter roots

From Michael Leasman
New York, Nov 28

Debrett's Peerage and Baronage, once the most dignified of British institutions, has become involved in a controversy here which, while basically foolish, could harm its long-established reputation. It derives from the purchase last year of the guide to the aristocracy by a group led by an American, Mr Harold Brooks-Baker, and its subsequent attempt to expand its operations in the United States.

The firm has entered the fashionable field of personal genealogy, tracing people's roots as far back as they can be established. To launch its operation here with a suitable fanfare, Debrett's decided to investigate the genealogy of the nation's top person, President Carter.

In the summer the firm announced that the President's first American ancestor was one Thomas Carter, who settled in Virginia in 1635. Earlier this month, coinciding with the American publication of the peerage guide, there was a further announcement that the exact location of the first Carter farm had been discovered and that a sign would be placed of mence under the direction of

Dr William Kelso of the Virginia Research Centre for Archaeology.

It was this second announcement which caused trouble. Dr Kelso declared that it was not true. He said that only the general area of the plantation had been located and there was no immediate plan to start digging. The press announcement was, he added, "slightly misleading".

Debrett's now admits as much. It says that although the rough boundaries of the plantation have been established, one or two of its dimensions are in doubt. More important, the site of the farmhouse, where excavation would be carried out, has not been found yet. The announcement of the imminent start of digging was "premature".

While relatively unimportant, the mistake was reported at some length in the *New York Times*. There is always the risk of this kind of embarrassment when an old-fashioned institution is acquired by someone who tries to inject a bit of vigorous enterprise into it. Some members of the genealogical establishment frowned on the very idea of tracing the President's roots at a piece of unseemly gimmickry.

A new magazine has joined the ranks of publications devoted to discussion of American foreign policy
Ferment in academic think tanksFrom Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 28

A new quarterly magazine has been launched by the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies. It is called the *Washington Review* and its editors boldly proclaim that it will become the main forum for the discussion of foreign policy in the United States.

This is an ambitious undertaking. The review is challenging *Foreign Affairs*, the weighty quarterly put out by the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, and the trendy *Foreign Policy* published by the Carnegie Endowment here. It will also contend with the publications of other think tanks and university centres for the study of foreign policy.

It is all part of the expansion of the CSIS as an institution, which in turn is a sign of the general ferment in think tanks generally. Every time there is a change of administration, members and former members of the staffs of such bodies as the Brookings Institution, the Rand Corporation and the Carnegie Endowment, not to mention such groups as the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Affairs, are pulled into the new Government.

They are replaced by those whose jobs have suddenly come to an end and who prefer academic life to industry—and by a new crop of bright young people whose

names will suddenly become familiar next time there is a change of administration and the process is repeated.

The CSIS caught one of the falling stars of the Nixon-Ford years, Dr Henry Kissinger, who chose Georgetown University as his base of operations upon leaving the White House. The American Enterprise Institution, which is equally ambitious, had to make do with former President Ford.

Dr Kissinger contributes a long interview to the first issue of the *Washington Review* on the theme of the lessons to be learned from the European balance of power over the past 150 years. The magazine's editor, Mr Michael Ledeen, believes that people who might never find the time (or inclination) to plough through a dozen pages of Dr Kissinger's dense prose will be ready to read an interview.

The calculation is probably correct. The former Secretary of State has a lot of interesting things to say and he marshals his thoughts clearly—and, of course, he knows what he is on the subject of Metternich or the Bismarck reich.

It will be some time before the *Washington Review* establishes itself. It wants to provide an up-to-date analysis of events and to report on countries whose doings are usually ignored by the press until a crisis blows up. There is therefore a piece by Professor Bernard Lewis on Turkey and an article on Cuba.

The CSIS, like the efficient think tank it is, does much more than produce occasional studies. It is a busy place, the elements of foreign affairs to Georgetown University's graduate students. It has an energy project which was well ahead of the field when the energy crisis broke upon the world, and it is the forum for Dr Ray Cline's World Power Assessment.

Dr Cline is a former assistant director of the Central Intelligence Agency and he now devotes himself to applying statistical and military and economic criteria to weigh up the relative strengths of nations and groups of nations.

He has invented a new technique, which he calls polytechnics: just as the various continents press against each other, producing earthquakes and volcanoes, so the groups of powers in the world press upon each other. It is a rather intimidating exercise.

The CSIS thus covers the whole front, from highly technical analysis of strategic problems to the kind of news in a magazine designed for easy reading.

This diversity may be the centre's greatest strength. Mr Ledeen claims that *Foreign Affairs* has lost its cutting edge because its very issue achieves the same standards of dull and respectable conformity. Something of the same sort might be said about the Brookings Institution, leaving an opening for the CSIS.

Upper Volta votes for return to civilian rule

Ouagadougou, Nov 28

Upper Voltans have voted overwhelmingly in a referendum for a new constitution that should lead to a return to civilian government after almost 12 years of military rule.

With results in today from 2,357 of the country's 2,991 polling stations, voting figures were: for, 1,691,167; against, 22,388. There were 14,446 spoiled votes.

Under the plan to hand the country back to civilian rule, legislative and presidential elections should be held within six months of adoption of the new constitution.

Patrol boat sails to stop refugee ship

Darwin, Nov 28

An Australian Navy patrol boat sailed today with orders to intercept a Vietnamese trawler heading for Darwin with more than 180 people on board.

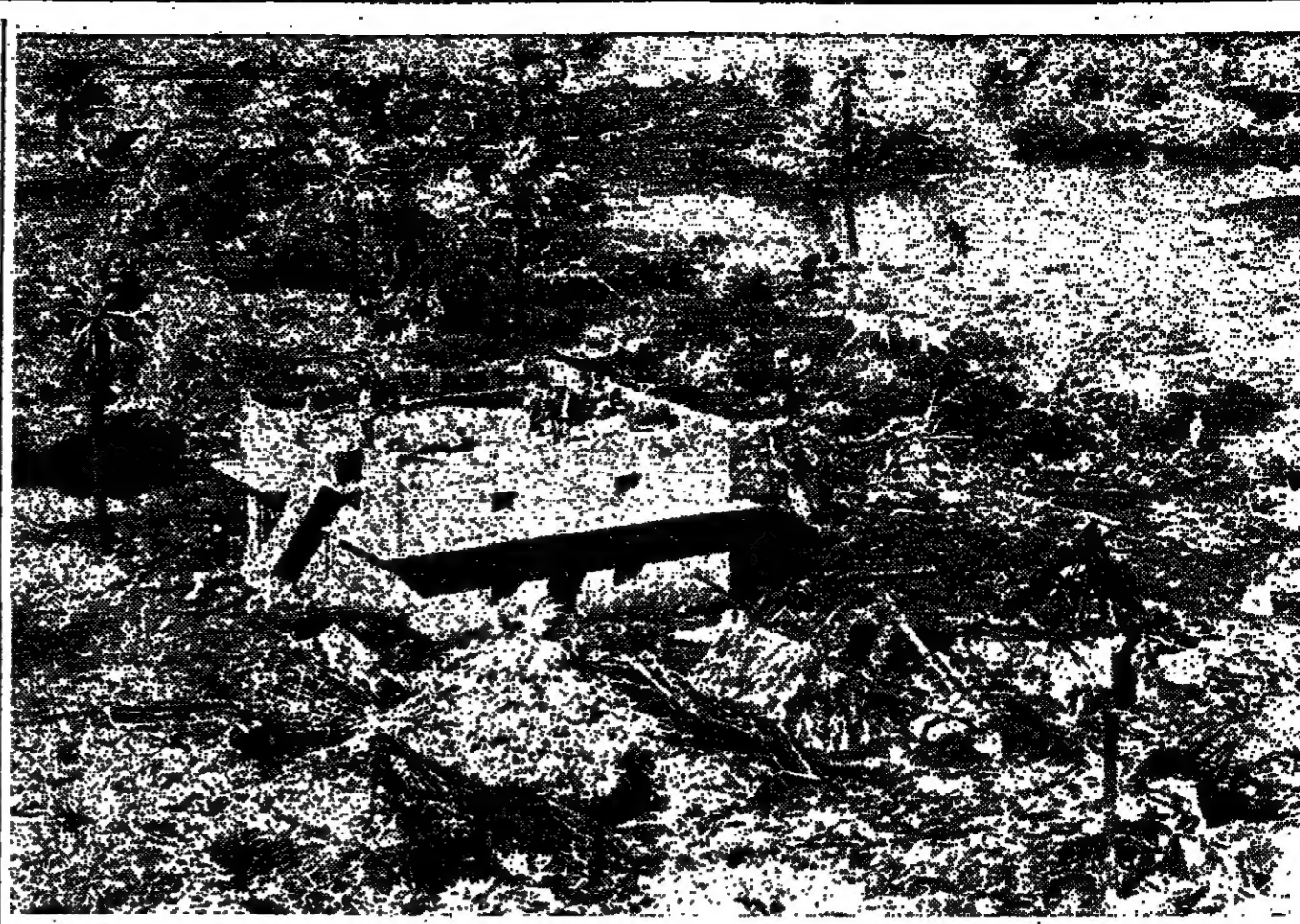
An Indonesian port spokesman said in Jakarta earlier today that the trawler, Song Be 12, left the Indonesian port of Surabaya last Tuesday with 175 refugees and seven captured Vietnamese guards.

It had arrived in Surabaya on November 17, but Indonesia refused the refugees permission to land. The Jakarta spokesman said. It took on food and fuel and set sail for Darwin.

The Song Be 12, a steel-hulled trawler reported to have been recently reconducted in Vietnam at a cost of \$140,000, was expected to arrive in Darwin tomorrow. It was spotted in the Timor Sea earlier today by an Australian Air Force gracker aircraft about 250 miles north-east of here.

The vessel's imminent arrival presented the Government with a potential diplomatic headache to add to its growing concern over the increased flow of refugees arriving in Australia from South-east Asia.

It seemed certain that if the Song Be 12 had been commandeered, Hanoi would demand



Flood survivors wait in the ruins of the only building still standing for a helicopter bringing emergency food supplies.

Dispute over cyclone disaster

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, Nov 28

As casualties in the Andhra Pradesh cyclone disaster rise to

about 20,000, the political controversy between the Janata Party and the Congress Party has intensified.

The Andhra Pradesh Government, run by the Congress Party, says that it has done its best in the circumstances while the Janata Party central government has said that the state Government has "lost the confidence of the people". Mr Karan Singh, the former Health

Minister, has denied this and has blamed the central Government.

Andhra Pradesh is due to go to the polls in March to elect the new state Government. The Congress Party's credibility was damaged today when Mr M. V. Krishna Rao, the Andhra Pradesh Education Minister, submitted his resignation from the Cabinet on the ground that he could serve the

cyclone-hit area better as a minister.

Meanwhile Delhi, in consultation with the state Government, has entrusted the Army with the task of rehabilitation. Up to two million people have been made homeless. The Army Engineer Corps is to build thousands of houses for the cyclone victims.

India tightens up security to fight sabotage

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Nov 28

Extra security precautions began today on Indian railways, power stations, telecommunications installations and "places of strategic importance" after a decision by the Government to combat suspected sabotage.

Three serious incidents have occurred within a few days. Twenty people were killed last Wednesday when the Ahmedabad-Delhi mail express train was derailed at Rewari after high-speed had been removed from the track. A still unidentified accident put out of action a £19m thermal power

station at Harduaganj, Uttar Pradesh. A fire on Friday which was clearly intentional damaged a unit of All-India Radio in Delhi, destroying all the tapes of talks recorded during the 19 months of the emergency.

Mr Charan Singh, the Home Minister, announced after a Cabinet meeting last night the setting up of a special central investigating team to inquire into recent cases of suspected sabotage, so as to find out whether they had any common features and eliminate possible causes of accidents.

During the past fortnight there have been seven cases of interference on the railway track, apparently attempts at

sabotage. The only successful one was at Rewari when the engine and 10 coaches overturned.

Mr Singh said in a statement that only vigilance on the part of the citizens to thwart the attempts could strengthen the Government's hand "without any risk of creating a police state". He also cautioned against undue alarm.

Mr George Fernandes, the Minister of Industry, in a weekend speech accused "elite elements" of resisting change and trying to embarrass the Janata Government by creating economic and public order problems.

Home Ministry officials are investigating whether Ananda

Marg, a fanatical sect which has been agitating for the release of its leader from a Panna jail, has been involved in the accident.

Railwaymen are disenchanted with the Janata Government because the end of Mrs Indira Gandhi's emergency has not brought them the benefits they expected. Pay is the chief complaint as Mr Desai, the Prime Minister, decided against restoring to them a bonus which had been stopped during the emergency and which was promised them by Mr Madhu Dandavate, the Minister of Railways. A top express train driver earned about 1,900 rupees (£125) a month.

Call to raise whale kill quota

Sydney, Nov 28

Japan and the Soviet Union have persuaded scientists of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to recommend a 745 per cent increase in the annual kill quota of North Pacific sperm whales, a commission member said today.

Mr Jean-Paul Forton-Gouin, who represented Panama at last June's IWC annual meeting in Canberra, told a news conference that the commission's scientific committee, which met in Sydney last week, had recommended the quota should be increased to 6,444.

The 16-nation commission cut the North Pacific sperm whale quota from 7,200 to 763 for the coming season, only 10 months ago in order to preserve stocks.

But Japan and the Soviet Union—supported by Iceland—called for a review of the cut under IWC rules and presented new information on sperm whale stocks at last week's meeting. The committee's recommendation to raise the quota is to be considered at a full meeting of the IWC in Tokyo on December 6.

Protests against the recommended increase have already been lodged by Australian environmental and conservation groups. If the increase is endorsed in Tokyo, it is expected to renew worldwide protests against the hunting and killing of whales.

The IWC announced an overall cut of 36 per cent in all quotas for next year at its June meeting, reducing the total world kills of all types of whales by more than 10,000. The biggest cut was for North Pacific sperm whales. Japan and the Soviet Union opposed the reduction, fearing their big whaling fleets would be forced to abandon operations in the region.—Reuter.

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This magnificent 16th-century moated manor house is one of the finest specimens of black-and-white architecture in England. Now the property of the National Trust, it is open to the public and boasts immense fireplaces, oak-beamed ceilings, secret rooms and a tortuous underground passage.



The traditional Horn Dance, Abbots Bromley.

Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire.

One of the most charming villages in the country which owes its fame to its annual Horn Dance which is believed to have religious or ritualistic connections. Twelve people take part, a man on a hobby horse, a maid, a jester, a boy with a bow and arrow, six men wearing reindeer antlers and two musicians on accordion and triangle.



18th-century bridge, Henley-on-Thames.

Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Designed in 1786, this elegant bridge is embellished by the woman sculptor Ann Damer with keystone masks of Father Thames and the goddess Isis.

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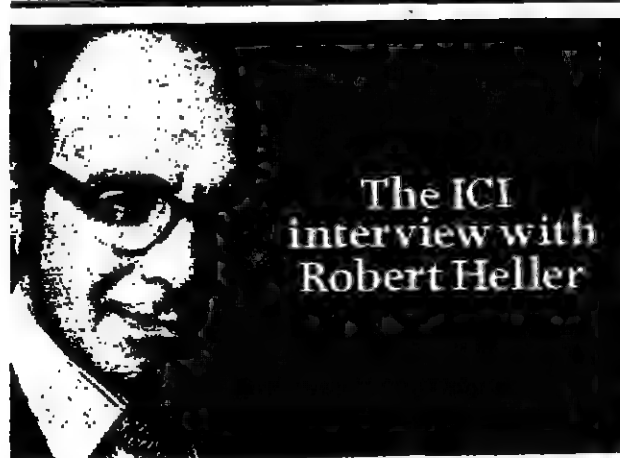
Polly Adams into country wife



Detailed financial and operating information is discussed at Work Group Meetings at ICI's Grangemouth Works.

'Effective management has to become a shared objective.'

Geoffrey Richards, ICI



The ICI interview with Robert Heller

Today, worker participation is the subject of intense political and industrial controversy. Since its formation in 1926, ICI has believed that effective consultation is at the root of good industrial relations, and a Joint Consultation System has been set up to ensure that the views of employees at all levels, whether factory or office staff, are known before important decisions are taken.

But how does the system work at grass roots, where the organisation has been left deliberately flexible?

Robert Heller, Editor of 'Management Today', asks Geoffrey Richards, Manager of ICI's Grangemouth works, how he has set about improving participation on his large complex site.

Heller: Do you regard it as practicable, with a workforce of nearly 2,000, to involve people in important decisions that you as a manager have to make?

Richards: Yes, I do. One of the priorities in industry must be to find ways of taking employees' views into account before major decisions are taken. Obviously the larger the unit the more problems

there are. At Grangemouth we're making a large number of complex chemicals - everything from dyestuff to pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals, and the number of people engaged in each process is correspondingly small. In effect they form natural work groups of between six and ten people, including the appropriate supervisor and junior manager. Other work groups involve office staff too. What we decided to do was to involve all these small groups in consultation.

Heller: And this makes it easier to obtain improved working relationships?

Richards: One thing I've learned is that you often get better results by discussing problems and jointly evolving ways of doing things with the people concerned. Because then people have ownership of the system, which is terribly important. They want to make it work.

Heller: What kind of information do they get?

Richards: Well, for instance, at Works Committee and Staff meetings I will tell them how well we

are doing compared with our budget and previous performance. Not only that, but we discuss their own particular area of business, and the performance of their Division or ICI as a whole.

Heller: Do employees themselves contribute a great deal?

Richards: Oh yes. They come up with plenty of ideas. For example, in the 1975 recession we got together to work out how to cope with reduced demand without having to lay people off, and without damaging the business. Joint groups have helped to solve all sorts of problems - from local matters like the introduction of a better shift system to national issues like whether the company should or should not opt out of the state pension system.

Heller: How have your employees reacted to all this?

Richards: On the whole, very well. But inevitably there are problems, because we're all learning. The shop stewards are learning about some of the management's problems - about economics, the real uncertainties in the business world, and so on. And managers are getting a deeper understanding of shop stewards' problems - that they have what is in effect a managerial role to perform in their own organisations. It's a very important mutual learning process.

Heller: Some people argue that what's really wrong with British industry is bad communication between management and work people. Do you think that's true?

Richards: Communication becomes much more effective if people can say, "Well I see that affects me. Now we can talk about problems together and do something about them". Effective management has to become a shared objective.

Heller: Has the works derived any concrete, measurable benefit from the introduction of Work Groups?

Richards: Yes. Output per capita has grown at roughly twice our rate of the mid-sixties, and the rate of profitability and therefore investment has increased quite markedly.



'The rate of investment and profitability has increased quite markedly,' explains Geoffrey Richards to Robert Heller.

Heller: Finally, do you ever hanker for the simpler days when all decisions were taken by management alone?

Richards: No. That sort of simplicity would no longer work. People's needs and expectations have changed quite markedly over the years. Above all, running a works is a pragmatic business. One of the fascinations of my job is that the whole process of involvement is going to go on developing - at least for my lifetime.



A control room at ICI's Grangemouth plant.

Ideas in action



SPORT

Racing

Weighty arguments do not devalue Royal Exchange

By John Carter

JOHN CARTER, who is popping out winners with the ease of Joe Davis putting snooker balls down the table, should be further commended for his lead in the traditional stable at Plumpton today. Clifford has run in both the Steeplechase and the Handicap and has won both. He is also the only horse to have won both the Steeplechase and the Handicap in the same season.

Royal Exchange carries plenty of weight, but was so impressive in his recent race, when he made all the runners, that he was judged by 15 lengths at Plumpton Park, that it is difficult to visualise any of his rivals as proving superior. Another factor in his favour is that the amateur rider's claim will reduce his weight by 10 lb.

Toughest opposition to Royal Exchange will probably come from Armand, who is perhaps lucky to win at Fakenham recently. He was City appeared to be going every bit as well when he came down at the Fakenham Handicap, but the rest of the field was beaten, however. The consistent horse, who has been in form since the start of the season, is not out of it on his best form. Maunby's success has been taken on trust as he is making his seasonal reappearance, but all the components of Clifford's well-oiled machine seem to need just a single touch of the starter's button to set them moving at full power. Maunby seems well suited to his best form of last season and few who saw him produce that scintillating run to beat Ebony Rock at Sandown in February will look much further for the winner.

Brown Jack, twice a winner at Sandown, who has been in form since he was finished well behind Fernist at Wincanton and there



Gay Signal (left) takes the last almost level with Merry Kerry before going on to win the White Hart Handicap Hurdle at Windsor.

Eagle's Feather's shock treatment

Timothy Forster took his score for the season to 22 when his new charge, Eagle Feather, won the Salter's Hill Steeplechase by an easy 15 lengths at Windsor yesterday.

It was as well for Kyrillos, otherwise he would have been leaving the comfort of Aurist Sinclair's stable. "I advised the owner, Mrs Irene Antoni, who returns from Athens tonight, to sell him if he didn't win today. I decided on new tactics, bringing Kyrillos from behind, and it paid off", Miss Sinclair said.

First Break left the favourite, Rollsham, 15 lengths in his wake in the Russell Selling Hurdle. First Break, a versatile and much-travelled horse, carried the colours of Egil Rommeberg, the proprietor of the restaurants at Norwoll, who had been successful.

"I bought him for 10,000 guineas as a three-year-old and, trained by Michael Scudamore, he won at Ludlow in March, 1976. Later that year, First Break scored three times on the flat in Norway and again in my country this spring", Mr Rommeberg said.

He then had tendon trouble and sent him to 'Taffy' Salaman six weeks ago.

Bob Champion said and Kyrillos was presented with the prize. But Roger Rowell was adamant that his partner would have won anyway.

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After finishing second in her two previous attempts, Lady Nugent's Gay Signal went one better when catching Merry Kerry after an exciting contest in the White Hart Handicap Hurdle. Gay Signal has only a few weeks left to add to her four wins to 7-1. The mare has to run and mother warts back before Christmas. And she does not want Gay Signal to go over the top with Lady Nugent, the trainer, said.

Triple First makes the third highest price

The December sales tallies topped the £5m guinea mark when Europe's longest running bloodstock auction resumed at Newmarket yesterday morning. After last week's record foal sales, the auctioneer, a young remainder of the eight-day sale has featured an assortment of mares, fillies, horses in-and-out of training and stallions. It will be around tea-time on Friday when a 1,650th and final lot in the catalogue, Spanish Gold, enters the Park Pedigree auction ring.

The British Bloodstock Agency paid top price of the morning session when reaching 23,000 guineas for Bundling, a young grey Fingero mare, in foal to the former Vincent O'Brien star, Home Guard. Bundling, who won at Leopardstown as a three-year-old in 1973 and is a half-sister to a Steward's Cup winner, Apollo, was purchased by the Super-based Priorfield Stud.

The mare was one of five submitted from Mr T. C. Cline's Ballynash Stud in Co. Limerick and the other four were sold for further 19,500 guineas for his Vienna mare, Light Opera, who has been successfully mated with another O'Brien star, 10-1 World Light Opera, successful on the

Guest may have new star in Casamayor

Raymond Guest, an American owner, who won two Cheltenham Gold Cups and a Grand National, is running over a longer distance. His trainer, Peter Bailey, commented, "It was a surprise to see him running over a longer distance. He is a three-year-old and will be his distance next time he runs." Despite the victory, Casamayor remains a 3-1 chance with this for the Gold Cup.

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O'Neill none the worse for fall

John O'Neill, the leading jockey, has been in the saddle for the last time in the Northern Hurdle. O'Neill said: "I grazed my leg and bruised a muscle. I am going to have a rest for a few days. I am not sure when I will be back home."

Plumpton programme

1.0 STANMER HURDLE (Handicap: £344: 2m)	2.0 BALCOMBE HURDLE (Handicap: £586: 2m)
1.01-0101 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.01-0101 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
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Windsor results

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England win second match of four

New Delhi, Nov 28.—England beat North-Eastern Railways 1-0 in the second match of the four-match series. The match was played at the J. L. Nehru Stadium. England scored through a goal by a player named [Name].

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Real tennis

Real tennis is a game played on a small, irregularly shaped court. It is a combination of tennis and basketball. The game is played with a ball and a racket. The player who hits the ball into the net wins the point.

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Wolverhampton

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1.01-0101 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.01-0101 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
1.02-0102 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.02-0102 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
1.03-0103 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.03-0103 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
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1.06-0106 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.06-0106 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
1.07-0107 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.07-0107 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
1.08-0108 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.08-0108 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
1.09-0109 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.09-0109 P. Hynes, 8-11-13
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Huntingdon selections

1.0 STANMER HURDLE (Handicap: £344: 2m)	2.0 BALCOMBE HURDLE (Handicap: £586: 2m)
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Wolverhampton

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1.10-0110 Stanger, M. Hynes, 8-11-13	2.10-0110 P. Hynes, 8-11-13

Real tennis

Real tennis is a game played on a small, irregularly shaped court. It is a combination of tennis and basketball. The game is played with a ball and a racket. The player who hits the ball into the net wins the point.

Wolverhampton

1.0 STANMER HURDLE (Handicap: £344: 2m)	2.0 BALCOMBE H
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Terrorist groups cash in on anything from illegal drink to protection money

How organized crime buys arms and pays 'social security' to Ulster gunmen

In recent months life has changed for hardened drinkers on both the fiercely republican Falls Road and the nearby loyalist stronghold of the Shankill. No longer can Provisional IRA volunteers (many under 17) enjoy the dubious pleasure of visiting sleazy illegal clubs with names like "The Sweedie Bottle", "Dr Hook's" and "The Zebra Crossing", while Protestant members of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force have found their regular haunts, like the Long Bar and the Bayardo, closed down for the first time since the present crisis began.

Unusually for Northern Ireland, the reason has not been recent bomb attacks, but rather the newfound determination of the Royal Ulster Constabulary to crack down against aspects of organized crime which have flourished in parts of the province. Since August, more than £500,000 worth of liquor has been seized from a variety of illegal "shebeens" in Belfast, ranging from derelict houses with improvised counters to fully-fledged social clubs complete with gaming machines.

As well as providing fertile recruiting grounds for paramilitary groups on both sides of the sectarian divide, the unlicensed clubs were also a valuable source of income for terrorists and often a cause of serious social unrest in the areas concerned. The ready supply of cheap drink combined with unrestricted opening hours contributed to a steady increase in alcoholism and related ills such as wife and baby battering.

For an area with virtually no record of organized crime seven years ago, Ulster by the



UDA men in the Shankill Road: "welfare money" is vital.

middle of 1974 was suffering from racketeering and violent crime on a scale equal to some of Europe's most notorious cities. Since that peak, the level has slowly declined because of a growing number of extremists in prison, but the security forces still acknowledge that extortion, intimidation and similar crimes exist on a wide scale. "Remember that in America, they only succeeded in jailing Al Capone on tax charges," one detective said. "Here, we often have to wait for a routine type terrorist conviction to put away people suspected of operating protection rackets."

No official estimate of the amount of money involved has been produced, but it is known to be considerable. One of the

most common rackets is the demand for regular payment in exchange for verbal guarantees that premises will not be bombed. Here the amounts can vary from £5 a week for a corner shop to upwards of £1,000 a month for large commercial concerns close to troubled areas.

In a number of recent cases, respectable businessmen are known to have negotiated the size of their "voluntary contributions" to some of the welfare funds set up to pay dependants of convicted terrorists. One Belfast industrialist who had no money at hand, offered £500 worth of cheques from his safe, and was revisited by the same gang later in the day offering to sell them back to him for £300.

Other swindles involving paramilitary groups have included the embezzlement of government money earmarked for the rehabilitation of houses in republican enclaves, wide scale theft of Giro cheques containing social security benefits, and a system whereby local breweries were swindled out of large sums being paid for the return of non-existent empty bottles. The often confusing ethics of both Protestant and Roman Catholic paramilitary groups have prevented their involvement in either drugs or the growing number of makeshift massage parlours which have largely replaced conventional prostitution.

One other business activity peculiar to Northern Ireland and widely suspected—despite

frequent denials—of close connections with the paramilitaries is the provision of the black "people's taxis" which operate in many of the ghetto areas. The first of these battered, second-hand London cabs appeared when rioting forced buses off the roads in 1971. There are now at least 500 operating in republican and loyalist districts, costing the city's bus company an estimated £1.5m a year in lost fares.

In spite of recent suggestions that a Government move against the taxis was imminent, there are strong indications that the authorities have come to recognize, however reluctantly, that they are here to stay. All are required to carry a PSV certificate and insurance from a reputable firm, making them

quite legal, if nearly impossible to compete with. Those which ply from fixed points in the Falls and Shankill areas cram in eight or more passengers for fares of 10p and 15p. Buses, which travel more infrequently and have long been a favourite target for hijackers, will charge 15p and 26p for equivalent journeys.

While the argument will continue about the precise sources of the funds handled regularly by groups like the Provisional and Official IRA, the Ulster Defence Association and the UVF, there little doubt about what they are mainly used for. Apart from expenditure on arms, the other constant drain on cash is the established practice of making weekly payments to the dependants of convicted members. Altogether some 1,400 men and women claiming allegiance to some paramilitary group are now imprisoned in Ulster. The families of those on the republican side receive about £5 a week, while the largest Protestant group, the UDA, is known to pay out £10 a week or more.

The payment of this "welfare money" is regarded as vital by any group which hopes to continue recruiting. The security forces believe that as their clampdown on organized crime intensifies, the payments to relatives will necessarily become smaller and more irregular. In official eyes, the growing effectiveness of the war against racketeering should have important repercussions against the other forms of paramilitary activity for which Ulster has already become legendary.

Christopher Walker

Bernard Levin

The priest who should make us think again about Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia is so often presented as a country which manages to combine communism with freedom (it has just happened again with the news of the amnesty for some political prisoners) that I am obliged, from time to time, to point out that it is no such thing: it is a police state, the fact that it is less brutal than most other communist countries is true, and important, but does not alter the truth about its essential nature.

A vivid illustration of that nature has come my way, and I present it today for the consideration of, among others, those who have allowed themselves to be persuaded that Tito, alone of the dictators, permits Yugoslavs who defy his rule to live in peace under it. For there is to be no amnesty in this case.

The story concerns a priest of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Father Sava Bankovic. He is 72 years old, and is the parish priest of a village called Beska, in the province of Vojvodina. At the end of the Second World War, when Tito was consolidating his power by getting rid of those who might prove a threat to it, Father Bankovic was sentenced to death on a charge of having sympathized with the Mihailovic forces. The sentence was commuted to one of 15 years imprisonment, which he served without remission. On his release, he returned to his pastoral work, in Beska. He there became noted for his resistance to the pressure of the Tito regime on the Serbian Church, and to the increasing insistence on atheism in Yugoslav society. For this, he was arrested again, in 1973, on a charge of having published a volume of religious essays, with a foreword by a leading Serbian theologian, who has since 1945 been confined by the regime in a monastery for his own religious resistance.

The charge against Father Bankovic, this "activity against the people and the state". He was sentenced to four years "strict regime" imprisonment, which he served, again without any remission, in the same prison. (Conditions in it were so bad that although Father Bankovic was 69 years old at the time of his sentence, and in poor health, he repeatedly went on hunger-strike in furtherance of his demand for more humane treatment.) He was released in June this year. Meanwhile, the authorities had organized one of those spontaneous expressions of popular feeling which occur in the rulers' need of them; this purported to express local opposition to Father Bankovic and a demand that he should not be allowed to return to his cure. (The local newspaper had reported such opposition, from such notorious objective and independent bodies as the League of Communists, some two months before Father Bankovic's inevitably embarrassing release was due; three days after the expiry of his sentence, he was summoned by the head of the district's Commission for Religious Affairs and told that he was not wanted in his parish. But he has not been relieved of his parochial duties by his ecclesiastical superiors. It is worth mentioning that, at his trial in September 1973, he insisted that he had no involvement in politics, but considered himself bound as a priest to resist atheism and was told by the presiding judge that communism and atheism are the same thing.)

Well might Tito have murmured "Will no man rid me

of this turbulent priest?" though Yugoslavia being what it is, there was no lack of those willing to engage in a campaign of harassment against Father Bankovic. Just after his release from prison he went with his wife to see off two of their grandchildren, who were leaving to undertake a course of study in Britain. (Requests for the children to be allowed to visit him in prison had been refused, so he had not seen them for four years.) As the grandparents left the bus on arrival in Belgrade, they were approached by an official of the political police, who ordered Father Bankovic to return immediately to Beska; when the priest asked the man for his identification, he refused to show it, but showed a revolver instead. They went back to Beska. Later, there was another such incident, again at the Belgrade bus terminal.

In the campaign organized against him, the authorities have not hesitated to use threats; the statement demanding that he should not be allowed to return to his post ended "If our request is not satisfied, we cannot be responsible for any repercussions which might take place". And a particularly odious form of harassment has been added. Father Bankovic has over 45 years' worth of accumulated social security credits, which are designed to provide a pension. These have been arbitrarily cancelled by the authorities, depriving him of his pension, and since he is still being denied, by force majeure, the opportunity to return to his parish work, he and his wife have no means of livelihood other than donations from parishioners in the area. There are those supposed to be united opposition to his return, and the like.

It is a nasty little story, and ought to (but will not) give some pause to the constant adulation of Yugoslavia in this country by those who should know better and in some cases actually do. It is too much, of course, to expect Church leaders here to come to the support of a Christian priest condemned for opposition to atheism; many of them are too busy cementing the armed guerrilla movements in the name of the Prince of Peace, whom in any case they seem to think much inferior, as an avatar, to Mr Robert Mugabe, and I would be all surprised to learn that one or two were planning to attend the coronation of the Emperor Bokassa, or even to officiate at it. (Besides, some of them are by no means certain that atheism is all that different from Christianity, if not indeed actually superior to it.) Nor can we hope for protests from any of the standard protest-bodies, let alone the fun-revolutionaries, who are mostly otherwise engaged, on their work of running Britain out of a reasonable family of Yugoslavia, only not so liberal and indulgent, of course. Some Labour MPs, to be sure, might be willing to criticize Yugoslavia for her continuing suspicion of the democratic Soviet Union, but I doubt if any of them would have the courage to say what I had in mind. So this column will probably be all that is said here on the subject, and Father Bankovic and his wife will continue to live in want and undergo harassment, while his parishioners continue to be deprived of his ministrations. I forgot to mention, incidentally, that Yugoslavia was one of the first nations to sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Times Newspapers Ltd. 1977

Next from the pen of Mr Heath, a book on politics?

Since he lost the 1974 elections, Mr Heath has not been an agreeable rut. From Christmas until his far-flung summer recess he writes an illustrated book in his spare time from Parliament and Bexley. In November it is published and becomes an immediate best-seller.

In November, 1975, the book was *Sailing*, which has sold 100,000 copies in hardback, not counting the American, Australian, French, Finnish, Japanese and German editions. Last November it was *Music*, which is so far doing just a little better. This November, in case anybody should accuse him of sticking to his publishing two books with his customary self-explanatory titles: *Travels and Carols*. He writes as he speaks, without frills, with occasional ponderous but palpable sincerity.

He wrote about sailing because handbooks kept on asking what he saw in the activity, and whether it bore any relation to the other things he was trying to do. He wrote about music, partly because his publishers knew

when they were on to a good thing, but principally because nobody else had written a plain man's explanation of the pleasures of good music. *Travels* is about his globe-trotting from underproductive Nazi Germany and Spain during the Civil War to official guest of presidents.

He explains: "By nature I am inquisitive. I like to talk to people, find out what they think at first hand, and form my own judgements. I wanted to explain to the new generation the things that influenced my generation. My travels have provided the background of the politics and ideas I have tried to pursue."

He is also a cross between a magpie and a squirrel with paper, never throwing away anything concerning what he has done in life. Trunks of his snapshots, newspaper cuttings, and other documents threaten to sink his London house and his home at Broadstairs, and make each book a laborious process of selection. He says: "I enjoy writing, but find it hard work. One of my problems is that for each book I have done I have had progres-



sively more material available. I have been sailing for only about ten years; but music and travel have been my life for 50 years."

Does he think, at his age, it is right to change so abruptly from Prime Minister to best-selling author? "I did not have the time before I was at the front bench from 1951 to 1975; and when you are on the front bench you can always think of something more to be doing instead of writing. After such a long spell writing is an opportunity to think about the future. And there were things I wanted to say."

After handing in this year's manuscripts he has fitted in an

average autumn's travelling. He is just back from a very interesting week in Israel. In October he went to China and right up to Northern Manchuria, where he had never been before; then to Bucharest for talks with President Ceausescu, and on up to Moldavia to look at the exquisite frescoes on the monasteries; then to Belgrade to talk with his old friend, President Tito. Since he has returned home he has made 25 important speeches, two radio and two television broadcasts, held press conferences, and had frequent hacks besiege his gates for ritual interviews with a best-selling author.

He started work on the carol book 30 years ago. It was gestated under the eaves of the annual carol service at Broadstairs. It was finally brought to birth by the concert to launch last year's music book and the long-playing record that grew out of that.

From the writing that he has recently taken up with such remarkable success, he emerges as an insatiably curious, decent, industrious, civilized, inhibited Englishman. The understatement, the amiable amateur jokes, and the discursive reminiscences convey a certain innocence and a great enjoyment of music, architecture, food, travel,

people, and life. But do not knock the formula. There is gold in that title.

So what comes next November? A cautious look comes into the eyes that are a little wary in the presence of other strange activities: "I have finished my trilogy now. Not next year, but in due course I dare say I shall want to write a book about politics."

I should watch out for that one.

Philip Howard

Travels, by Edward Heath, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.50. *Carols*, by Edward Heath, Sidgwick & Jackson, £3.95 and paperback £1.95.



Robert Robinson's Christmas Quiz

- Tick if yes*
- Do you expect to have a happy Christmas with family or friends? ☐
 - Do you think you might over-eat just a little? ☐
 - Do you look forward to 1978? ☐
 - Do you suppose you'll keep warm at home this winter? ☐
 - Did you realise that very many old people have to say a sad "No" to all those questions? (They'll be totally alone, often in danger from cold, and in some places plain hungry). ☐
 - Would you like to bring Christmas happiness to one of them? ☐

Help another Day Centre where they find friendship (£5 or £10 does a lot). Or send Christmas meals to the hungry old folk overseas (£3 sends 15 meals, £20 sends 100). Or commemorate a dear friend this Christmas by inscribing their name on the dedication plaque of a Day Centre you help with £150.

Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T2, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed). I would like to help an old person in urgent need. I enclose my goodwill gift of £.....

Name.....
Address.....

Not summoned by bells, but good snufflers

About him were hoses, fire fighters' gear, above him the intricate roof of the adjacent house of Jane Ewart-Biggs (in Radnor Walk) which had just caught fire. Thus, last week, the Poet Laureate might have waxed lyrical in the event when his morning glass of champagne with his old friend, Sir Osbert Lancaster, was interrupted by plumes of smoke from the house next door. Sir John Beresman acted swiftly and decisively.

Mrs Ewart-Biggs, the widow of our former Ambassador in Dublin, is out during the day and when, recently, her eldest daughter's top floor bedroom caught fire, the first person to spot it was Sir John. He said to Sir Osbert: "Do you smell smoke?" Sir Osbert said, definitely: "No". In the garden they therefore strolled.

Black smoke gushed from the upper window and another guest of Sir John, an agile poet in the making, scaled the garden wall, broke into the house and opened the Ewart-Biggs' front door just as the militia, alerted on the telephone by Sir John, arrived in their Green Goddess.

The firefighters from the Irish Guards at Chelsea, confined the fire to the bedroom and snuffed it out there. Sir John then provided champagne, in the street, for firefighters, anxious neighbours and Mrs Ewart-Biggs when she returned in the luncheon hour.

Drinker, tailor, soldier, sailor; how sick-making.

It's probably the same man.



The other trial

Supporters of the rulers of cricket at Lord's must have been delighted on Friday to see the *Evening Standard's* contents bills all over London which announced: "Greig's men routed in Packer trial."

Even greater must have been their dismay on finding that the bills referred, not to Mr Justice Slade's keenly awaited judgment in the London trial, in which Kerry Packer, Tony Greig and Co, far from being routed, won hands down, but to the trial march in Melbourne, in which the World XI led by Greig was bowled out for 148 by an Australian XI.

Wanted: a Westminster anatomy

An insurance company, I can reveal, is putting a price on the Houses of Parliament. It has nothing to do with a wealthy old shellfish seeking a town residence, nor is it a precautionary measure against some latter-day Guy Fawkes and the threat posed by the firemen's strike.

The inquiry is being made because of a tape-recorder. It belongs—or it did belong—to their tall Tory from Acton, Sir George Young. But it has been stolen from his office in the Palace of Westminster.

Assuringly, Sir George says: "Fortunately, there was not a tape on it, so there will be no Nixon-type revelations." But his insurance company wants to know more about it.

Filing in his claim form, Sir George was asked to answer the following questions: total value of contents of premises at time of theft; are the premises, or any part, let or sub-let; how many nights have the premises been unoccupied, during the past year; was anyone in the premises at the time of the theft; if so, please give names and addresses?

Sorely this must be a job for a joint meeting of the Government actuary, the Department of Environment and the Whips' Office.

The reuniter

In the past 37 years, Muriel Monkhouse, has reunited tens of thousands of families separated by war. Today, she receives an OBE in recognition of her service.

At the request of relatives, Miss Monkhouse, head of the British Red Cross Society's International Tracing Service, is still finding about ten Second World War refugees a month in Britain who have not seen their relatives in Eastern Europe since they were torn from them in the war. Many of them last saw their relatives in concentration or labour camps.

Miss Monkhouse works in the utmost secrecy among files and cards containing details on nearly 100,000 people she has been asked to trace over the years.

A variation on Blaze Away

Playing *con fuoco* is one thing, I said to myself, but playing *al fuoco* is surely going a bit far. I had been told that the Band of the Commando Forces Royal Marines, had been ordered, with instruments, up to Scrathclyde to reinforce the troops already deployed in firefighting during the firemen's strike.

The truth emerged as something somewhat less dramatic. The musical Marines are going to blaze all right, but they will be leaving their instruments back at base.

It will be the first time since blood-fighting work in the Medway towns 25 years ago that the Marines will have been used for purposes other than musical.

Elements from two other Marine bands, the Band of the Commando Training Centre and the staff band at the school of music, will also be deployed for firefighting duty. But I am assured that taking their instruments along with them will not be mandatory. It will be more a case, one might say, of trumpet voluntary.

John Morgan Travel, specialists in villa holidays, yesterday thought up a clever way of reviving memories for their patrons. They took over the London Planetarium and filled the domed sky with the stars that the villa folk would have seen over Greece during their holidays. There was, of course, lots of retinas, taramasalata and olives too. And just to remind the guests—250 of them—what had probably escaped their attention while they were sunning themselves on the beaches, John Ebdon, director of the Planetarium, gave them a chat about the connexion between Greek mythology and poetry. Need I tell you that the accent was on romantic verse.

Two musical interludes

A single guitar ensemble does not make a Prom, any more than a single swallow makes a summer, so I must be careful not to over-react. But, listening to the youthful Home Valley ensemble from West Yorkshire rehearsing Byrd's Pavane at the Albert Hall yesterday, I felt the two-day Schools Prom (last night and tonight) would be a huge success. We shall see.

A few minutes earlier, I was present at another happy occasion at the Albert Hall, also involving young music-makers. Jacqueline du Pré, in her wheelchair, received on behalf of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children a cheque for £1,924, the proceeds of last May's Music and Youth concert organized by London's Rotarians.

I was able to exchange a few words with the stricken cellist and she left me feeling uplifted and filled with confidence about a world which, whatever else it may deprive us of, still offers the glorious gift of music and the means to enjoy it.

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WINES & SPIRITS

a Special Report

High streets ahead on choice and quality

by Pamela Vandyke Price

If you have not already ordered your wines for Christmas, it would be prudent to go and get them. Three weeks is a reasonable time to allow for a delivery by carriers—and this is their extra busy season. Fortunately, Britons have not only a wider selection from the wine of the world, they probably get more in terms of quality from the High Street than anyone else.

For the past three or four years Britons have been buying about nine bottles of wine annually. As the duty on table wine has gone up 333 per cent since 1974, this shows building tenacity. Indeed, more adults are drinking wine and as today it is the middle income groups who account for 60.7 per cent of wine bought, it can no longer be considered a luxury for privileged persons.

It looks as if the nine bottles figure may be exceeded, once the total for the last quarter of the year is available—the time when most wine is bought. But there are interesting indications in the wine that people buy. True, the British do cling to known names. Even without any idea of the difference that can be made by the name of a grower, shipper or merchant, people say "I like Nuits St Georges", "I like Chateau de Beaulieu", "I like Chateau de Beaulieu".

There are, however, indications that people rely on sources of supply that they trust and recommendations from individuals who have proved their competence. When, after 1973, the EEC labelling regulations had to apply in Britain, customers of reputable firms were willing to follow suggestions for names previously unknown—wines bought in excess of the permitted yield of a declared region or those excluded by some technicality from bearing the label under which they had previously been sold.

The British public is not always easily fooled: those who buy wine from several good sources are able to understand that it is possible to tell a wine that is impeccably what its label says—and find it dull, even if not downright poor in quality. For quality can be the responsibility only of those who make, buy, ship and handle the wine—it cannot depend on paper qualifications.

Those trained in wine and traditional methods in

Britain are the sort of buyers who bring home wines that really are worth trying, but as anyone dependent on the local country grocery in a wine producing country in Europe will admit after a holiday, Britain gets both a wider range and higher quality through its super-markets and shops stocking medium-priced wines than the continental buyer.

Of course, no one would expect to find finest and rarest wines in the supermarket—but how often can you drink these? It is a severe test of a buyer's skill to pick the everyday bottles. Because wine is generally sold in a supermarket, it is also often the subject of "exposures", these may be instances of true *succès de scandale*, because in many instances wines that are designated in price simply challenge those who have previously enjoyed them to buy more and try to find out what the objection can be. In many instances, of "exposures" (a term of insult to anyone who really knows anything about wine—we are all amateurs) just do not like the wine, not that it is not good of its kind. In my experience there is a few good wines than bad in Britain, whether or not you happen to like certain brands, styles or types.

The public must, however, be prepared to pay for quality—very cheap chablis may be an adequate wine as a beverage, but is suspect. You can get wines by the glass in pubs today, which is splendid; but you may get the quality (or the measure), much less the range to choose from than you might expect in a wine bar.

The public want to know more about wine. Publishers, editors, organisers of lecture courses, would not contradict this. So why should those firms which previously ran training schemes for members of the wine trade (the buyers and sellers of tomorrow), as well as the lovers of wine trying to become better informed, have closed down their wine schools? This seems unjustified; but you may get the quality (or the measure), much less the range to choose from than you might expect in a wine bar.

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trade and members of the International Wine and Food Society can still attend study sessions. But so can those who buy from progressively minded independent firms, whether of historic standing, or the recently formed establishments, find that regular customers want tutored tastings, talks of a serious type, and more social wines with regional food and get-togethers which all result in more sales. Many small independent concerns today are run by people who previously worked in a big concern. With husband or wife they work from home, selling wines from a short list of personal buys that they believe in wholeheartedly and with which they can offer personal and attentive service.

They have fun selling wine—and luckily their customers increase, with their own growing appreciation of specialised wines, such as those of Spain or Italy, or certain regions of France. From the supermarket, as well as the wine club, wine tour and the public who write to any established wine correspondent, there is general good news.

Alas that the impeccable Marks & Spencer wines are so good, should have felt that their public could not quite appreciate some of the best designs for bottle labels and have modelled these into something indistinguishably pretty. But they, and all those who sell wine in the High Street, can still cater for you at Christmas—if you about without delay.

There are inexpensive medium and slightly more costly bottles to provide for a Christmas meal based on poultry, also the Boxing Day buffet or cold ones. All will be found, unless you are living in a light-house. Modest Christmas cheer—remember, company tends to be very mixed and assorted—might start with an aperitif of chilled white vermouth with a slice of lemon—if you are sick of the bottle.

With meals, have red and white—white always opt for red with a roast, but some people prefer white and you may have some kind of fishy first course. So, a house red and white of good firm (decant the red, it will taste better), or Sicilian white and red. For Boxing Day, Hungarian Riesling (cheapest of Italian whites), or Vitis, and any of the reds from Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

For all occasions, allow half to a bottle a head—generously for, in a moral



Trevor Sutton

way, people will drink less of portions served in big glasses. If you do not use the wine, cork it up and keep it cool for the next day—anything rather than run out or become the host who, with increasing reluctance, opens just one more ill-chosen half-bottle.

For a medium-priced Christmas, one of the sparkling French wines, Germany, Spain or Italy as aperitifs—they need not cost more than £2 a bottle and are sustaining for the rolling cook, peace-making for the assembled family. Alsace for the white wine, there are no bad Alsace wines in Britain and I would choose a spicy Gewürztraminer, otherwise Italian white wine, 1976 or 1975 Sannicciolo, Pouilly-Fuissé, or a reference book and its label identify as made from the fragrant trebbiano grape.

For the red, 1976 beaulieu is now—or, if people want something fuller, a barolo or red rioja. After the meal, a glass of fine old sherry, port, or dessert sherry, or a bowl of malmedy Madeira. Then, on Boxing Day, a sparkling aperitif, possibly of ash (or half and half with fresh orange juice for a real revival), with a 1976 mesocade, with the food—or a bone dry as usual because of the summer—or else any good establishment's straight sauvignon.

The red wine might be a VDG from Langue-doc, Roussillon, Coteaux d'Aux, or a firm's house wine for the burgundy or a small-scale Provençal, such as Lirac (Gigondas if you have casedotted the turkey).

But you can drink 1976 beaulieu—from a good shipper—with every Christmas dish.

Champagne sales soar again

by Colin Price Beech

As the broadcaster might have said, "If champagne is not already France's beloved ambassador, then it should be." After 1974, a year in the doldrums when world champagne consumption dropped to 105 million bottles, sales are now soaring again to the understandable delight of the men who produce, press and blend the juice of the grapes.

A recent visit to Epernay and Rheims, the two main centres of champagne production, showed that at least as early as mid-October in the departments of the Marne, God was in His heaven and all was right with the world.

A cold spring followed by a badly indifferent summer and a delayed vintage had made even the Champenois pessimistic as to the real chances of their harvest being good. But then a warm autumn and a high-pressure area that remained almost stationary over most of Western Europe for almost three weeks gave the vignerons just the right conditions that they needed to make a wine that possessed enough acidity to blend with the rich and rather over-saturated champagne of the previous year. The EEC winemaking authorities in Brussels had earlier said that the grapes

of the 1977 vintage throughout Europe should possess at least 7.5° natural sugar. If they were to be acceptable for wine, this year the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes that are so carefully cultivated on the chalk hills of Champagne were coming in with 8.5° to 9.3° of natural sugar, an ideal blending vintage.

Winemaking anywhere to the north-east of Paris can be a difficult and hazardous business and the costs that go into even a single bottle of champagne are interesting enough to relate in some detail.

Aspart from the massive investment that is locked into the land on which the champagne grapes are grown—one hectare, approximately 2.5 acres, of a vineyard in the Marne Valley will cost a minimum of 500,000 francs to 800,000 francs, even if it is also the cost of financing the aging of the wine in bottle for at least a year before it can be disgorged. And every bottle of champagne requires no less than 1.5 kilos of grapes that this year are costing the wine-makers a fixed price of 7.97 francs a kilo?

So even without allowing for such essential items as cork, cork cap, and cork cap at anything between 25 centimes and 60 centimes, depending on the quality, the silver or gold foil, wire and a label at two francs, the champagne makers are spending at least £1.40p for the contents of the bottle alone.

The sediment is drawn out of the wine and it is then put back into the bottle in deep chalk cellars for a further period of aging before being wrapped up and packaged. There is a basic product cost of £1.80p for each bottle without allowing for time, labour, distribution, gross profit margins and the inevitable importation or selling tax (now payable in Britain at a rate of £7.93p the dozen as well as a mandatory 8 per cent VAT added to the final selling price). Consider these figures for a moment and then you will begin to understand why champagne is, and always has been, a fairly expensive drink.

But is it really worth it? The answer must be in the affirmative for there are today more and more people who are saying yes. World champagne sales are 12 per cent up on last year and Britain is once again the leading export market for sparkling wines with a January to August importation figure of 4,500,000 bottles.

France: buy now or regret later

by David Peppercorn

The clear message which comes out of France this Christmas is: do not put off buying till tomorrow whatever you can buy today. The official figures are not yet to hand, but it is already clear that 1977 will be an exceptionally small vintage (53 million to 55 million hectolitres against last year's 75 million) of uncertain quality. Prices have been rising in eager anticipation of this situation since the spring.

Bordeaux was especially hard hit by the frosts which came at the end of March. Results are likely to be very mixed, with many of the best Medoc growers producing reasonable yields, but parts of St Emilion and most of Pomerol being very badly hit indeed. At Pomerol, I am told, they did not even bother to pick what grapes there were; there would not have been enough to have made a '77 vintage of Pomerol even supposing the quality had been good enough. The unfortunate producers of sweet white wines were again unlucky; after a disaster in 1976 most of Barsac was destroyed by the great frosts.

The latest forecast is for 1,400,000 hl of red appellation *contrôle* wines (the smallest harvest since 1969) and only 800,000 hl of white (the smallest since the war). With Bordeaux exports up by 40 per cent last year, this harvest, which is only about two thirds of the average of the past five years, has come at just the wrong moment for the market. Now all the danger signals for another crisis are there, although it seems hardly credible that the same mistakes of 1972-74 could be repeated again.

True, the scenario this time is slightly different and it is not British and American speculators who are pushing prices up. Instead, growers are sticking on stocks just at the time when the market seems interested again in the classic French wines. Suddenly, no one can find any '75s and prices of '76s are nearly 30 per cent up on the opening prices of a few months ago.

From the consumer's point of view, the best advice in these circumstances is to look for '70s and '75s for long-term buying and '73s and '71s for current drinking. It is also worthwhile looking for good '76s, many of which should provide delicious drinking in about four to five years' time, much sooner than the '75s. But it must be emphasised that the '76s require much more careful selection than the '75s so you will need the services of a wine merchant who knows what he is about.

As a footnote to Bordeaux, lovers of its great sweet white wines should be looking out for '75s, remembering that 1976 and 1977 are not likely to produce much of interest, and before that

one must go back to the elegant '71s.

The burgundy story is a little different. After the high quality but small '76 vintage, 1977 has produced a lot of wine, the largest harvest since 1973 by the look of it. This applies mostly to Beaulieu and the Côte d'Or. Only in Chablis is the vintage rather small.

Everyone seems agreed that the whites from Chablis down to the Maconnais should be good but the picture for the reds is less clear. There was a lot of early publicity on the beaulieu nouveau when Joseph Drouhin announced they would not be shipping a nouveau. But since then almost everyone else has been claiming that the wines will be respectable and that they will be offering the nouveau rather small.

The release date has been put back 10 days from the usual November 15 to November 25 to allow more time to prepare the wines since the vintage was later than usual. But with the wines high in malic acid it was not easy to have good wines by November 25, and the high acidity was likely to be rather noticeable in the Côte d'Or they are being very reserved about the quality of their reds. The harvest was even later than in Bordeaux, but there are hopes that once the malic acid fermentations are finished the wines could turn out to be a pleasant surprise. Let us hope so, because with a rise in prices at the property of about a third since the beginning of the year, the market certainly needs it.

My buying advice here is: buy whatever 1976 chablis you can afford quickly while stocks last; they may seem expensive, but it was an exceptional year and the good '77s are likely to fetch similar prices. The same goes for '76 beaulieu, especially white like Fleurie, Juliénas, Brouilly, St Amour and Moulin à Vent. They are the best wines seen in Beaulieu for years and are still improving with every month that passes.

For those who are rightly horrified at the price of poultry fuisse, try St Veran, a new appellation adjoining Pouilly Fuisse and producing some excellent wines. But Macon Villages, especially the single village ones such as Prias, Vire and Lugny, remain the best buys for white burgundy lovers. If anyone can still afford Côte d'Or wines, the last measure of undoubted quality to look for is '72, but they are getting scarce. Look out for offers of the splendid '76s being made by some enterprising wine merchants. In the Rhone, firm reports indicate a satisfactory vintage, but rather lower degrees than usual, which is important since there is no capitalisation (addition of sugar to the must before fermentation) in the Rhone. This will mean plenty of attractive light fruity wines for early drinking, a style

much sought after in France, but a shortage of the strapling '73s means which many British buyers still look for. There has been a marked rise in prices in this region in the past two years and prices at the property for Chablis du Rhone have risen by over 20 per cent in the past six months alone—so Rhone wines are no longer cheap.

The charming wines of the Loire have gained greatly in popularity in Britain in the past few years and have been especially notable for their stable prices. It is record that of all the main wine districts they have been the hardest hit this year. Everything seems to have happened, from frost to exceptional severity (temperature down to -8° to -10°C) at the end of March, followed by hail (especially in Touraine) and attacks of mildew during the summer. The vintage was later than a normal crop, some as little as 20 per cent. In Muscadet the situation is rather special, since usually little more than half the crop is allowed to be sold as muscadet. But the '76 crop was both plentiful and of exceptional quality so the authorities have now given permission for nearly all the wines remaining in growers' cellars to receive the *appellation*, and this together with what has been made in 1977 will provide a normal quantity of wine to commercialise as muscadet. Unfortunately the growers have seen fit to double their prices, a short-sighted measure they may soon regret.

In the Loire these sort of stocks simply do not exist and growers and negociants face a serious problem trying to satisfy the markets which have been created for these wines. However, the most serious shortage known there since 1957.

Most Loire wines are of the sort that are drunk on a year-to-year basis, so the question of buying ahead hardly arises. However, the muscadet increases are only just filtering through to the consumer and the worst is certainly yet to come. Even a standby like anjou rose will be affected. For the finer wines, where vintages do have a meaning, those who have never looked seriously at Loire reds should look out for '75s and, even more, '76s. They are deep in colour with that pronounced fruitiness which they are famed on. On the other hand, the best sweet wines from the Coteaux du Layon need several years in bottle before they show their undoubted class. The '71s are delicious now and worth looking out for. For some inexplicable reason the wines of Alsace have never achieved the popularity in Britain that their undoubted qualities would seem to justify. Now some of the leading shippers are combining in a new effort to win more British friends.

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Good value from Germany

by Tom Olsen

In three years out of the past six, German wines have been excellent. The great years were 1971, 1975 and 1976, each with its own splendid qualities but each involving comparison with such noble predecessors as 1921, 1949, 1953, 1959 and 1964.

To my mind 1971 was particularly superb and 1975 only slightly less so. The best examples of each are still worth laying down if you can find them, for the greatest white wines will keep longer than many realize if properly bottled and cared for.

Because it was superb and rich, 1976 was graded largely as *Qualitätswein mit Prädikat*, the top German wine grade. It produced spätzle, aulsee and beerenauslese wines from late-picked and selected grapes which turned to "noble rot" under the autumn mists, making

wine of great sweetness by its sugar content.

These are wonderful to drink on their own or with fruit, but many are too rich to accompany a meal. This essentially a taster's vintage and not a label buyer's vintage. Since 1976 was lacking in lower grades, the ordinary drinker must turn to the *Qualitätswein* of lesser years for these.

The 1972, although modest, often have an attractive flavour, while the 1973 have kept their freshness as they develop. The 1974s, although fruity, are often a little light and not up to the 1973 perhaps, but of average quality. Average quality by German standards is usually satisfactory, particularly if one looks for well-known shippers' names.

In Britain we are fortunate with such firms as H. Sichel, Deinhard, W. Siegel, Aug. Helmers, Loeb, and Thoman, several with related companies abroad. With prospects for 1977

unsettled by the weather and likely to produce a large quantity of *Qualitätswein*, the middle grade, and minor quantities of *tafelwein*, the lowest grade, medium-priced wines should again be available and restore the balance disturbed by the great 1976. However 1976 is not always an expensive vintage. At the German Food Centre in Knightsbridge, I enjoyed a 1976 Carl Odenheimer Petrarber spätzle (Johann Fick of Bornheim) for £2.20 and a richer, fuller 1976 Albigier Hundskopf aulsee from a blend of Müller-Thurgau, Feber and Kerner grapes (Johann Fick) for £3.10. These are reasonable prices for 1976 spätzles and aulsees. Among 1975 wines the German Centre will offer a Sautheimer Heiligenhaus spätzle from Rheinhessen at a special price of £1.55 for Christmas, with case discounts.

The best wines, however, continued on next page

Acquiring a new regard for Spanish quality

by Jan Read

Spain is a country best known for sherry. Most of its exported table wine has been of the cheap variety sold in off-licences, and its sale has made Spain second supplier to Britain with France in the lead.

It is nevertheless regrettable that few of its better table wines are known or appreciated in Britain and are correspondingly hard to find, and that wine drinkers tend to think of its table wine in terms of sweet "Spanish Chablis".

With the steep price rise of French wines, the position is slowly changing. Recently a tasting of about 50 estate-bottled Riojas, all now being shipped, was recently organized by Les Amis du Vin of London and efforts are now being made to familiarize wine drinkers with the more select Spanish growers, excellent in quality and easy on the pocket.

The table wines from the Rioja, an upland region in the north, are the best known. Since the late nineteenth century they have been made by the careful methods of Bordeaux and aged for an obligatory period of two to three years in the traditional 225-litre oak casks, which gives them their characteristic vanilla-like flavour. Thanks to the usually reliable summers, vintage years are of less significance than in France; and the wine has generally been labelled according to the number of years spent in cask—though it is now common to find the year of vintage on the label.

The region is best known for its red wines, made in two styles, the lighter *claret* and more full-bodied "burgundy type"—although it is a pity to compare such individual wines with others from abroad. It also produces roses and some clean, dry whites, best drunk young.

The large Bodegas de Exportación in the Rioja region include such names as Bodegas Bilibares, Franco

Españolas, Berberana, López de Heredia, Viña Tondonia, La Rioja Alta, and Santiago. Most produce wine in a variety of styles: red, white, and rose; and the old red reserves can be very fine. Money is now being invested in building new bodegas by the Spanish banks and sherry firms, and Pedro Domecq will ship a red Rioja in large quantity.

Of the two bodegas often regarded as the aristocrats, the Marqués de Riscal produces the lighter wine; but perhaps the most remarkable growth from the whole region is the Marqués de Murrieta's Castillo Ygay, gloriously fruity and deep in taste and bouquet, made only in the best years. Riscal is obtainable in London.

Traditional French methods are followed

Fine wines which are rapidly making their mark on the English market are those from the family firm of Torres in the Penedès area of Catalonia, also made by traditional French methods. Their Sangre de Toro (Bull's blood) is an inexpensive red; the Vides Sol (Wine of the Sun) is now one of the best and cleanest dry white wines from Spain; while the Gran Coronas (Great crown reserves) are exceptional reds. The bodega also makes a single grape wine, the light, dry Santa Digna, from the pinot noir grape, recently introduced to Penedès.

There are many other wines of character from Spain. The Basque province of Navarra makes good reds, rather similar in style to Rioja; the best are those from the Señorio de Sarria and the Vinícola Navarra. The soft red and white wines from Añella, north of Barcelona, have been known from Roman times; and Valdepeñas, in the Don Quixote country, produces

sturdy red wines, the staple of the small cafés of Madrid and acceptable for everyday drinking.

Then there is the superb red Vega Sicilia from Valladolid, made from French grapes introduced after the phylloxera epidemic of the late nineteenth century, and so sought after that the bodega supplies to the most exclusive restaurants in Spain and sends only a little for export.

Galicia, in the rainy north-west, makes *petillan* "green wines" of which the best is the delicate feijoaes Palaco, made from the albarino grape. You are unlikely to find this in England, but the paso from the large cooperative at Ribadavia is sometimes available in Soho. San Sadurn de Noya in Catalonia has for years made good white sparkling wines by the champagne method. Although they may not be sold as "Spanish Champagne", Cordón, Fraixenet and the Conde de Caralt are very good, clean and dry, but softer than champagne.

Mention must be made of the bitter-sweet malaga, a dessert wine slightly in eclipse since its Victorian heyday, of which Harry Yoxall wrote that "There are interesting, almost surprising undertones beneath its poutuous richness, like the dark fires in the heart of a jewel". Try the beautiful Schols Solera 1885, now again available in Britain.

This year's vintage in the Rioja has been seriously below average in volume and quality, and, bearing in mind the rate of inflation in Spain, it is unlikely that the present very advantageous prices for Rioja or the other wines can be held beyond the end of this year. However, in view of their quality, they should remain a good buy.

Jan Read is author of *The Wines of Spain and Portugal* (Faber) and *Guide to the Wines of Spain and Portugal* (Pitman).

by Joyce Rackham

Dining at one of Florence's traditional restaurants, we were greatly diverted by the antics of the wine waiter, who handled the venerable riserva chianti our host had ordered with awesome reverence. It was when he produced a thermometer to take the temperature of the wine that we had to stifle our laughter.

The effect of this, however, on Americans dining at the next table, was totally different. Far from being amused, they demanded loudly why they had not given their wine the same attention.

This anecdote has a happy ending, for both wine and food were superb, but it shows that a small cross-section of the Italian gastronomic world takes wine seriously to the point of pomposity. I find a thermometer dipped into a glass of wine as incongruous as when used by German tourists to check the temperature of the Mediterranean while swimming.

In Italy, generally, visiting wine-lovers are impressed by a much more widespread seriousness about the quality of the wine produced in all regions and a greater determination to follow the stricter wine laws which now govern viticulture. This has been of great benefit to producers and consumers alike.

More than 28 million litres of Italian wine were imported into the United Kingdom last year, an increase of more than four million litres over 1975. This compares with the figure of 2,500,000 litres shipped to Britain in 1970—a most enviable rate of growth, and particularly remarkable considering our economic crisis and a series of punitive duty increases on even the humblest plonk.

Last year Italy had a share of more than 15 per cent of Britain's table wine market, and it now vies with Spain for the rank of second largest supplier (with France in top place).

Dr Cesare Gentile, director of the Italian Trade Institute in London, commented: "We are particularly pleased with the growth in sales of our better quality DOC (Denominazione d'Origine Controllata) wines." Italy

now supplies half the total of all sparkling wines imported into Britain, with the naturally sweet, grapy *asti* being the most popular. Increasingly successful is lambrusco, a frothy crimson wine from Emilia Romagna, with the sweetness indicated by the charming Italian term *amabile*.

Among its tastings this year, the institute held one of wines from Treviso and Venezia, from vineyards of Arcadian beauty to the north of Venice. The producers were able to conclude satisfactory sales to a number of British shippers, and an increasing number of their excellent and distinctive wines, as well as some unusual red wines, are now available. The golden, honey-scented *prosecco di cone-gliano*, both still and sparkling, is notable. Lega di Regent Street now lists the delicious *borrolo* *prosecco*, (from about £1.70 a bottle).

A label on another *prosecco* reads: "Metodo Champenois nuovo gioiello dell'arte spumantistica" ("champagne method—new jewel of the sparkling art"). It sounds irresistible. Another white wine of considerable personality

Italy's strict law of viticulture confers benefits

from the Treviso region is the dry golden verdizzo, now shipped from the renowned Bianchi-Kunkler vineyards by Cini Brothers, which also has a delicious cabernet and *toca del piave*. They cost about £2.65 for a 1½-litre magnum.

In supermarkets like Sainsbury, it is an agreeable surprise to find such a sprightly newcomer as the medium-dry riesling *del colle from the Venete*, imported by Italvini and priced well below £1.50. The same shipper has a bright, dry crimson fruitily red *merlot del piave* at the same price.

From Udine, shipped by Enoria, comes the *Isolo* August collection, extending from the stringently dry pinot bianco, with lots of bite and flavour, to a nice dry red, "plummy" merlot.

Tuscany is now sending us a bewildering choice of chianti, both classico and otherwise, from that it still finds it hard to tell the delectable vernaccia, the glowing amber wine with a fruity bouquet which belies its dry, nutty taste. It is probably Italy's best, and most under-rated aperitif. Contrary to Sardinian belief, though, it

does not taste at all like sherry. This year Padana introduced a new Sardinian table wine, the delicately perfumed, platinum blonde vermentino, a mellifluous name for a most intriguing drink.

Greco di Tufo, made by Michele Mastrobortino, sounds more like an old master than a fairly youthful wine. In fact it is full-bodied, golden, with an agreeably leafy bouquet, and comes from the southern region of Campania, the province of Avellino, much esteemed by Italian oenophiles. It is imported by Belloni, is dry enough to serve with oysters, and makes a good aperitif.

From Puglia, the heart of Italy's "wine lake", a group of producers sent over a host of attractive wines for a London tasting this year. This unjustly neglected southern province merits more attention by wine-lovers. Worth seeking out are the fruit reds and roses of Riva dei Lezuli, shipped by Ciboletto, and the smooth and flavoury dry red, *Giulio del Salento*, from immaculate vineyards near the baroque town of Lecce, shipped into Britain by Lorne House Winners.

In jubilee week in London a special tasting was held of wines from another great Tuscan estate, that of Marchese Antinori, when he introduced a new red wine, *Yigmanello 1971*—dry and subtle as a good claret yet retaining its special regional style. "We decided to make this after years of experiment, using a different blend of grapes, and maturing the wine in the much smaller bordeaux casks", he told me.

In contrast are the wines from the harsh, sunburnt soil of Sardinia, which are beginning to appear on many lists in smart Italian restaurants as well as modest wine bars. Their shipper, Padana, tells me that it still finds it hard to tell the delectable vernaccia, the glowing amber wine with a fruity bouquet which belies its dry, nutty taste. It is probably Italy's best, and most under-rated aperitif. Contrary to Sardinian belief, though, it

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Green in years but not in character

Portugal has been shipping wine to England since the twelfth century, and the mysterious Chameco wine was mentioned later by Shakespeare. During the seventeenth century strenuous efforts were made to popularize Douro wines to compete with claret; and the stimulus of the Methuen Treaty of 1703 finally led to the evolution of port, which, with modest success, has since accounted for the great bulk of exports to Britain.

In recent times, the first table wine to be shipped in sizable quantities was Mateus Rosé, whose success dates from 1951, when Sacheverell Sitwell wrote in *The Sunday Times* that it was "the most delicious *vin rose* that I ever tasted". It has since become one of the biggest-selling wines in the world and dominates British imports of Portuguese table wine. Another big seller is the red *Justina*, marketed by International Distillers and Vintners, and one of the pleasantest in its price bracket.

Portugal has, however, a great deal more to offer, in the shape of good red and white table wines hardly known in Britain; and a current campaign to publicize them centres on the *vinhos verdes* and *Dão*.

The "green wines" from the north are among the country's most individual. The adjective refers not to their colour but to their youth; and, in fact, they are

produced in the proportion of 70 per cent of red to 30 per cent of the white, better known abroad.

As Raymond Postgate once remarked, the red wine "is unrelentingly hard, and the first mouthful is a shock". The whites, actually pale lemon in colour, are low in alcohol—a fact of some interest to motorists—dry and somewhat stringy, and possess a flowery bouquet and delicate taste of fruit. These special malolactic fermentation leaves them ready for drinking in the early summer after the harvest and with a slight impermanent sparkle. Served cold, they are delicious for summer drinking and may accompany fish or light food the year round. Again, they make a pleasant long aperitif.

Among the best of the *vinhos verdes* are the Alvarinhos from Monção, just over the border from Galicia, notably the *Capa Velha* from Vinhos de Monção. That most readily obtainable in Britain is Avelada, shipped by Bass Charrington, bottled in green hock-type bottles and slightly sweeter than the wines drunk in Portugal itself. Other brands obtainable here are Lagares from the Real Companhia Vinícola do Norte de Portugal; Gamba and Gato from Borges & Irmão; "Ribeiros" from Ribeiro & Irmão; and Casaleiro from Caves Dom Teodósio.

Portuguese wine lists always distinguish between *vinhos verdes* and *vinhos*

maduros or mature wines, of which those in largest supply are from the *Dão*, a high plateau to the south of the Douro. The reds are dry, deep in colour and are often described as "velvety" (because of their high glycerine content); and, at their best, the whites are dry, clean and flinty, and should be drunk young.

Perhaps the best known of the wines obtainable in Britain are those from the Real Companhia Vinícola do Norte de Portugal; Gamba and Gato from Borges & Irmão; Avelada, and shipped by J. M. da Fonseca, sold at Harrods; and the Comde de Santar, an excellent estate-bottled *Dão*. All are available red and white and in various vintages.

Among the wines decanted by the Junta Nacional do Vinho are those from four small areas near Lisbon. The wines which produce the classical red Colares, as astringent and bone-dry, were among the few in Europe to

escape the ravages of phylloxera; and the dry white Bucelas and nutty-flavoured, fortified Carcavelos, drunk cold as an aperitif or with a dessert, are first rate but in very limited supply.

The full-bodied Periquita and Palmeira, made by J. M. da Fonseca in the Arrábida peninsula south of Lisbon, are excellent red wines, while the Moscatel de Setúbal from the same firm remains one of the world's best dessert wines.

There are other areas in Portugal, not as yet officially demarcated, which are beginning to produce very drinkable table wines. The problem in the Upper Douro has always been to avoid fast and furious fermentation of the must and a consequent loss of delicacy and bouquet. This was solved in the case of port by branding the wine and so restricting fermentation at an early stage. It is now being tackled along different lines by the use of closed vats; and the results are excellent.

Jan Read



How to survive your own party

Serve the drink that sends your party into instant orbit. That saves you the hassle of mixing complicated drinks and trying to remember who asked for what. And that doesn't need Fort Knox to finance it.

Serve Kriter: France's prestigious sparkling wine. For anything from mid-day drinks to your glossy evening extravaganzas. Kriter's glittering taste and trillions of zooming bubbles add their own flair to your party. And the price is reasonable enough for you to keep it pouring and still keep a few bottles in reserve, for yourself, for later.

Serve Kriter. And enjoy your own party.

The great sparkling wine of France
KRITER
When it matters

You do have brilliantly dry Dom's, which means...

Good value from Germany

continued from previous page
come from the riesling grape and among these I have enjoyed the 1974 Bernsteiner Raststube riesling (Lauerberg) from the Mosel at £2.90, a good balance of acidity and sweetness, the 1975 Dürckheimer Spielberg riesling kabinett from the Rheinhessen (for Rheinhessen) at £3.15, so lush and elegant, and an apple-sweet 1975 Ockfener Bockstein spätlese riesling (Hellers) from the Saar at £4.50.

There are many cheaper examples of riesling at about £2 or less, such as the attractive Bereich Bernkastel riesling, a Qualitätswein, and Bereich Johannisberg riesling.

In the Rheingau 79 per cent of the vines are riesling and in Mosel-Saar-Ruwer they are 89 per cent, but the Rheingau wines are fruity, full and round while those of Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, particularly the tributaries, are elegantly austere with fine

fruit acidity. Müller-Thurgau, a cross between riesling and Sylvaner, is the main grape in Rheinhessen, Rheingau and Baden, with Sylvaner a close competitor in the first two.

These ripen earlier than riesling and produce considerably greater quantities, so they are chosen for the simpler varieties and make clean, refreshing wines of some character. One finds them in Niersteimer Cutes Domtal and Oppenheimer Krutenbrunnen, both wines from Rheinhessen, the area south of the Rhine, and as popular in Germany as in Britain.

The Rheingau uses the same two grapes as well as 14 per cent riesling and a good example is the 1976 Wachenheimer Dornblich riesling kabinett, but this area has skillful producers like Dr Esserman-Jordan and Dr Birklin-Wolf, with great wines from Wachenheim, Deidesheim and Forst at higher prices.

Baden has been slow to make its impact on Britain but has individual, full-bodied white wines from grapes like rubander and gutedel, a lot of Müller-Thurgau and 20 per cent spätburgunder, a lesser pinot noir that makes the amusing red Affenthaler wine which has a monkey emblem on the bottle.

The 1975 Niederermsinger Anilfelsen is a good example of Baden Müller-Thurgau, semi-dry, at £2.45, while the 1975 Leiselheimer Vulkanfelsen Reblender (pinot gris in France) has a rich, flavour turning dry in a full, lingering after-taste at £2.45. These are zentralkellerer wines but the German Food Centre will shortly have the wines of the Friedrich Kirchoffs-Kellerer, a privately-owned cellar with a good reputation for Baden wines. They will include examples of Weissburgunder (pinot blanc) of special quality. Having visited Breisch and the Kaiserstuhl at harvest times I know the

care that goes into the making of these fine wines which deserve to be as well known here as in Germany.

Although I like to see signs of origin on labels, Germany produces good value lesser wines. Burgermeister Mosel (Sichel) is one, and Golden Oktober (Grants of St James) another, both soundly based. Liebfraumich must now be of Qualitätswein standard and Blue Nun, Hems Christol, Black Tower and Crown of Crowns are well known. Ratings of German wines, usually under £2, include Georghof, Franz Reh, Seidenhaus, Valckenberg and Julius Kayser, all of which I have found pleasant.

As with other wines, a reliable merchant is the best guide and it is particularly important with German wines to make sure you get dry or sweet according to your taste, since it is not always easy to tell from the label unless you are knowledgeable.



The reason why so many recognised wine experts speak so highly about the quality of Cyprus sherry and wine is that they have tried it. Have you? There are many different brands available—all with their own styles. You too will be in for a very pleasant surprise.

Beer drinkers who have a way with the grape

by Colin Price Beech

Beer or wine? How does an apparent preference help us to understand a culture? Austria is a country twice the size of Switzerland and has seven million or so inhabitants, drink roughly four times as much beer as they do wine and yet Austria has essentially a wine culture.

citing as the essence of the country itself.

To be more precise, 86 per cent of Austria's wine is white and comes from vineyards that are probably older in origin than Vienna. For the vineyards that line the banks of the Danube are among the oldest in Europe and, certainly date back to the country's pre-Roman past. Doubtless the legionnaires who struggled across the Brenner so many centuries ago were surprised to encounter vineyards and a

locally produced product that enabled them to take time off for refreshment in the Vienna Woods near by. Those early vineyards in the Wachau district still play an important role in the production of Austrian quality wine today. The two great Wachau wine towns, Krems, home of Austria's most important wine fair, and Durnstein, face south across the Danube looking out as if to Italy from whence those long-dead legionnaires once marched.

But today it is to France,

not Italy, that we must look if we are to find a significant similarity in the nature and style of the wine. Austrian wines, particularly the Rieslings, are more suggestive of Alsace than of the southern slopes of the Dolomites or the Moselle or Rheinhessen. A red St Laurent from the ancient and monastic vineyards of Kloster Neuberg can instantly invoke a recollection of the gamay of the Beaujolais, but these are all digressions. The wine is served only sherry. A full-bodied dry sherry, an amontillado or a pale cortado, is one of the accepted accompaniments for soup, but the lighter finesc, outside the professor's experimentation, have been missed.

Sherry is a very curious wine. Oxidation, the bane of winemakers everywhere, becomes an ally to the creator of a Jerez bodega, giving to the wine in the slightly bunged butts that special nuttiness of olorosos and amontillados. Before they were amontillados the wines were protected by a film of yeast, the flor which kept the younger wine from the air and preserved in it a freshness and crispness normally missing from white wine grown so far south and which otherwise soon become flat and flabby.

A few years ago, fortification of wines exported to Britain may have been overdone, but the influence of duty changes has given us a wine of the strength previously exclusive to Spain itself. Professor Saintsbury, who has been pleased, but if we are unimpaired to make a meal to go with them, we should not forget the *tapas*, bits of infantine variety which the Andalusians regard as part and parcel to the true enjoyment of sherry.

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great fun to contrive and the plan of a drink used in despair to offer a lukewarm welcome to the unexpected guest. Remember, too, that all sherry is a white wine, only sherry is always better chilled.

Despite coming from vineyards only about 100 miles away, montilla, one of the wines served at Saintsbury's dinner, has, ironically, become an outlaw, a sort of blue-note to the shippers of Jerez and, although it is having given the Jerezans the origin of the name of their amontillados.

The dust has now settled from the various high court battles, to protect the name of sherry and, although it is interesting to speculate on changes which may come if and when Spain becomes a member of the EEC, Cyprus sherry continues to hold a place on the shelves of British winecellars.

Although Cyprus can claim to be one of the oldest wine-growing areas in the world, and a king of Cyprus feasted in the regal company of a Greek emperor, the island's wine industry was virtually wiped out in the London Hall in 1963, their sherry style of wine is something of a newcomer to these shores, a product of a revival in Cyprus wine fortunes.

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However, Austria's main grape is the Grunee Veltliner, a growth indigenous to Austria itself which produces an attractive medium dry white wine that often has a slight prickly or spritzing as it leaves the palate for the descent down the throat. Mueller-Thurgau is the hybrid that most English wine-growers choose to use, but in Austria's softer, kinder setting the wine is served only sherry. A full-bodied dry sherry, an amontillado or a pale cortado, is one of the accepted accompaniments for soup, but the lighter finesc, outside the professor's experimentation, have been missed.

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Rhein and Welschriesling, the spicy Traminer and the deliciously individual Muskat Ottonel that makes such a rich and delightful dessert wine. All of these grapes are grown to perfection in a corner of south-east Austria known as the Burgenland. Softly sloping vineyards line the shores of Lake Neusiedl interspersed with villages with names as Rust, Moribach, Apedon, and Podedersdorf. The summers in the Burgenland are soft and warm like those of the childhood and this beneficial climate tends to render individual

vintages of secondary importance. No account of Austrian wine would be complete without a mention of that country's most controversial wine producer, Lenz Moser is known throughout the world of viticulture as the pioneer, or some might say inventor, of the High Culture system of grape cultivation in which mixed varieties of vines can be planted three yards apart and encouraged to grow by means of natural or "green" manuring.

These vines grow up and out on trellis wires that are supported by iron poles spaced out in such a way that tractors and agricultural machinery can pass between them. This enables one man to work 10 acres where before it might well have required many times that number. Moreover, fewer vines are needed per acre since yields are increased through improved fertility and greater resistance to bad weather conditions.

Lenz Moser wines are obtainable in Britain as the wines of Alois Morandell, Barnett.

who enjoys a sound reputation for the production and export of such high quality estate bottled growths as Kammer Sandgrube, Mueller-Thurgau, Ruster Gierberg, trockenbeerenauslese from the consistently superb cellar of G. Feiler at Rust in Burgenland and their own Steiner Hund Rheinriesling from Krems.

Other Austrian wines now attracting attention in Britain include those of Kloster Neuberg and the modestly priced Gumpoldskirchner Neuberg from Augustus Barnett.

Britain keeps liking for sherry and port

by Edward Hale

During 1976 just under 6,500,000 cases of Spanish sherry were sold in the United Kingdom. These were complemented by 2,500,000 cases of Cyprus sherry with South African sherry adding more than 500,000 cases.

The sherry figure does not include re-exports, about a million cases, but keeps Britain in the lead as Spain's best customer. Hard on its heels comes Holland, buying about five million cases mainly of more ordinary quality with price the important factor, with the United States in third place.

A market showing impressive growth, but starting from a small base, is that of West Germany. The total United Kingdom sales levelled off in 1976 and growth in the present year is confined to certain brands, with Harveys of Bristol now claiming 30 per cent with their sherry, expecting this to rise to more than 40 per cent this autumn, and Gonzalez-Bryass replacing Domos in second place. Some momentum may have been lost since the boom years of the early 1970s but Jerez de la Frontera still wears an air of prosperity, even if some of the Jerez vineyards, constructed in those heady days, have rather more wine in their cathedral

like aisles than the owners may have expected.

Discernible trends in sherry-drinking habits include a large increase in the popularity of the light finesc, which until recently held only a small but fastidious following. When sales were low, the finesc tended to spend too long in bottle and lost their essential freshness, but as their popularity has increased so the wine has moved faster through the system and nowadays in Britain these sherry are as fresh as those in their Andalusian homeland.

Although there is still time to go before Spain joins the European Economic Community, the adjustment of internal duties in Britain resulting from membership has helped these lighter sherry by encouraging a lowering of their strength and, in turn, the duty paid on them.

Most finesc sold here are about 17.5 per cent (Gay Lussac). This strength is only a few degrees above that of many table wines and, being little, if any, more expensive, allows a bottle opened as an aperitif to be taken to the table and drunk with the meal.

This is not as revolutionary as it sounds, as in the bodegas, constructed in those heady days, have rather more wine in their cathedral

quirr, it would be heretical to wash down the wonderful seafood with anything other than Manzanilla fino, and Professor George Saintsbury, in his *Notes on a Cellarbook*, recalls a dinner at which he served only sherry. A full-bodied dry sherry, an amontillado or a pale cortado, is one of the accepted accompaniments for soup, but the lighter finesc, outside the professor's experimentation, have been missed.

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by Pamela Vandyke Price

It is likely that the major part played in contemporary drinking by the colourless spirits could not have been achieved without modern refrigeration and the availability of ice, plus today's demand for clean, quick-drinking drinks amid the pressures of business or entertaining on an international scale.

Many of these spirits are surprisingly old: vodka, for example, is said to have been made in Russia since the twelfth century, but the Poles claim that Polish vodka was being distilled, albeit primitively, since the eighth century. But vodka—which recently beat American whiskey as regards a brand by the sales of the Smirnoff brand—and gin, whether the London or Plymouth type, are all spirits that tend to be consumed in mixtures rather than by themselves.

Each brand is different, as is each brand of white rum, the classiest spirit, especially in the form of a daiquiri, and a comparative tasting of any in neat form or with simple additives will be both interesting and revealing.

Certain other spirits, however, are becoming known as good drinks by themselves. Ouzo, made in Greece, is diluted with water, when it turns milky, the more it resembles milk, the more it resembles milk, the more it resembles milk, the more it resembles milk.

Port, the most famous of the world's spirits, is a different matter. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs.

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aniseed coagulate and form a type of scale. Nor should one be drunk without some silvers of cheese, or crisps.

A bottle that should definitely be kept in the freezer, however, is schnapps. The spelling varies between the Scandinavian countries, but Aalborg Aquavit from Denmark is certainly the best known in Britain. The bottle should, ideally, be preserved in ice and the spirit poured into small glasses and the contents downed at a gulp—the very word schnapps in Danish means "a snatch or gasp".

There are a number of herbs used in the different recipes for the spirit, which is made in Holland and Germany too, and the flavours therefore vary. Aalborg Aquavit is vaguely reminiscent of caraway, their Julebær Aquavit is flavoured with dill and herbs.

All kinds of traditions are associated with drinking schnapps, which should also always be accompanied by something to eat, preferably, say the Danes, herring. The etiquette of raising the glass, saying "skål" while looking into the eyes of whoever is being "skåled", linking arms and knocking back the schnapps in a gulp (one can bite the second in three, the third in three, the visitor is told) is complicated and varies from country to country.

The chaser is usually chilled lemon, the accompaniment of the schnapps. However, Port, the most famous of the world's spirits, is a different matter. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs.

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wine. Schnapps must be kept—rapid, it is almost the nastiest drink that has ever come my way. Served as it should be, it is a drink that creates conviviality to such an extent that it is not surprising to learn that, in the seventeenth century, it became necessary to decree that, in Denmark, regional assemblies had to meet at 7 am because after that time, it was assumed that everyone would be amiably bemused, also that the clergy were forbidden to conduct services with glasses in their hands.

Tequila might justly be termed the schnapps of the south. It is made only in Mexico from a plant, the *agave*, that is not, as many think, a cactus. The bluish spines of its leaves are stripped from the pinecone-like heart of the mature plant, which is cooked and pressed, the juice then being fermented and eventually distilled.

Tequila matured for three to five years in wood becomes golden, otherwise it is without colour. The big name in tequila is Sauza, a family business which dominates the trade both in Mexico and on export markets, but Cuervo, another family firm, has also made great progress in Britain. Although tequila may be used to make the Margarita cocktail (1½oz each of tequila and triple sec, with 1oz of lemon juice, shaken with crushed ice, poured into a glass with its rim dipped in lemon juice and then frosted with salt), the classic way to drink tequila is neat and a single gulp.

Expert but a little salt on the back of the hand between thumb and fore-

finger, suck a slice of lime or lemon and jerk the wrist so that the salt is thrown to the mouth—and then the small portion of tequila is downed. Tequila is an excellent accompaniment to highly spiced snacks and canapés.

Dutch gin, known variously as "Genever", "Jenever" or—as our ancestors referred to it, "Hollands"—is certainly one of the historic European spirits. Lucas Bols made a type of it in Amsterdam as early as 1575 and the professor of medicine at Leyden in the early seventeenth century first made a distillate (in a pot still) from rye, which was then redistilled with juniper and other additives. It was the juniper—genièvre in French—that gave the flavour and the Dutch name. British soldiers in the Low Countries referred to it as "gin" or "Dutch courage".

And then there is the Royal Navy's much-loved pink gin, made with Plymouth gin, the Singapore gin sling and the dry martini, now no longer required to have capital letters since a court acknowledged its supremacy as the world's best-known cocktail.

Mixing for years but still unshaken

by John Groser

Nanny was wrong. How often I heard her tell Cook, in a tone of severe reprimand, that gin was mother's ruin. It was nothing of the sort, though it was nearly the death of poor Master John.

When I was about five we lived next door to a family with one very precocious daughter. Portland was eight

and allowed to smoke, drink and swear and paint her nails. That leap year she proposed marriage to me (twice) and made me sick by forcing me to "put" (as she put it) at one of her parties.

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of the dog when mixed half and half with tomato juice) positively grew to like Havana Club. Not necessarily in a daiquiri, nor with Coke (Cuba cola, dummies) but in some amusing variations concocted by Maxwell in the bar of the old Hilton.

Because of the humidity, I spent a lot of time being air conditioned and had my first Bouths gin cocktail. For this drink you need three parts white rum, three parts brandy, two of Rose's lime juice and one of Cointreau shaken with ice and served with a twist of lemon.

Which reminds me of the time Jean Harlow was invited to dine at 10 Downing Street when Asquith was Prime Minister. Miss Harlow (perhaps somewhat forwardly) started calling Margaret Asquith by her Christian name. What is more, she pronounced it "Margott".

Halfway through dinner, the Prime Minister's wife could stand it no longer and said (very audibly) to her neighbour: "Doesn't the woman know that the 't' is silent as in Harlow?"

To make a Harlow you need vodka and Cusenier Freezomint (the white variety) and when shaken you float Pernod on top. I think it is revolting, but there is no accounting for taste (or lack of it).

Those of you with a sweet tooth will want to be introduced to The Godfather. This needs one and a half ounces of scotch mix with three ounces of vodka and one ounce of Amaretto di Saronno (that amazing Italian liqueur) over ice in an old fashioned glass.

Now that you can buy Galliano by the gallon (for this extraordinary act you would have to pay £23.50, mind you) I feel that I cannot leave mixed drinks without a mention of my old favourite, Harvey Wallbanger.

You need six ounces of fresh orange juice to one of vodka over ice in a tall glass. Stir and splash in half an ounce of Galliano and seal through the eyes of waves just like old time. You can do it on the West Coast of the United States.

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It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a spirit that has been known since the time of the Pharaohs.

When drinking a glass of Port one does not necessarily have to think about the remote and mountainous Douro region in north-eastern Portugal, the birthplace of the Port wine. However, Port owes its very existence to that unique wine area. It is made with grapes grown there and its famous name was taken from the city of Porto or Oporto, ocean gateway of the inland Douro valley, where it matures.

Grapes have been grown and wine made in the Alto Douro for thousands of years. When Caesar's soldiers marched and clattered on the paved roman roads of the area, wine was already being made and surely not so very few legionaries overcame the longing for their faraway homes with some generous cups of the remote ancestor of what is now Port. However it was in the last half of the XVII century that Port really began to be known; this is owed to British initiative and thirst and then to quickly become the Englishman's wine. However, the years passed by and as its fame progressed its markets multiplied and diversified. Nowadays Port is shipped to more than one hundred countries, covering many drinking habits, customs and religions. France, most notably, is one of the very best wine of the world, it is its biggest importer; she overtook Britain in 1963. Presently the ten biggest consumer countries are, in descending order, as follows: France, United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium-Luxembourg, Holland, West Germany, Denmark, Italy, Russia, Sweden. The ten biggest Port drinkers "per capita" are as follows: Portugal, Denmark, Belgium-Luxembourg, France, Holland, United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, Switzerland.

Since its early days, and as the centuries passed, different fashion trends went by but Port stayed; not only because of its high intrinsic value, but also because of its easy adaption to different tastes and habits. There are various sorts and styles of Port: it may be a dessert wine, an aperitive wine or just a pick-me-up or a wine to be appreciated in a moment of leisure. Not all countries have the same drinking habits. For instance, on the turn of the century, sweet and very sweet white Port was the wine for two great countries; however, at the same time, other countries asked for deep purple Reds, Rubies, Tawnies and Vintage Port. Some nations, France for instance, mainly think of Rubies, Tawnies and Whites as aperitives. But other Port lovers, and more and more do it, drink white dry Port as the only aperitive.

The fact is that there are many ways of drinking and many different Ports to be drunk. There are however some general rules on Port drinking; they may collide with some personal idiosyncrasy or with some special wine drinking habit. This in no way is a difficulty as a Port consumer has the sacred right to drink as he pleases and chooses. Port is born and matured to give him his pleasure; nevertheless should never forget that it also grows for a little loving respect so that it may show itself to the best advantage.

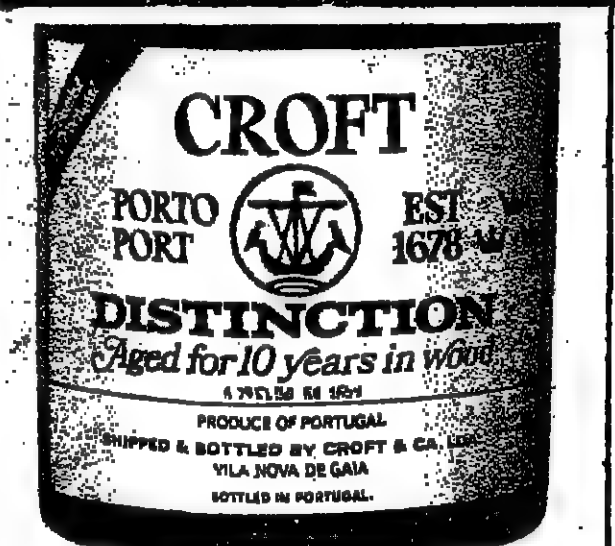
Let us now consider the various types of Port and how and when they are usually drunk. What follows is not for the learned wine lover but only for the everyday common person who likes Port but usually has an imperfect knowledge of the complex subject that Port really is.

Port can be produced from white grapes and then it will consequently be white Port. White Port can be sweet or dry and is aged in wooden casks. The trend nowadays is for the dry or extra dry ones which are extraordinary aperitives. They do not compete or try to surpass any other aperitive wine, they are, as Port usually is, excellent and different. They can be better appreciated if served cool.

The Reds and Rubies are usually young rich Ports; they are as a rule dessert wines but can be appreciated at any time. The Tawnies, older, smoother, medium dry or sweet, can attain extraordinary quality. An old Tawny is very versatile: it is a perfect dessert wine but is also very good as an aperitive or at any time of the day or evening. Reds, Rubies and Tawnies are aged in the wood and are commonly a blend of different Ports; this is, one could say, the classical way of producing Port. Wood Ports do not usually exhibit a date on the label. Nowadays however some of these Ports can show on the label one of the following descriptions: "10 Years old", "20 Years old", "30 Years old", "more than 40 Years old"; they must be bottled in Portugal with the "Selo de garantia" (guarantee seal) issued by the "Instituto do Vinho do Porto" (Port Wine Institute) in Oporto.

Lastly we have Vintage Port or simply Vintage. This is the full bodied Port of only one very good year, bottled in between its second and third year. Always dated and of exceptional quality. One can not generalize about Vintage Port; each one is different not only as refers to the year but also to the shipper. Since 1970 it must be bottled in Portugal with the "Selo de garantia" issued by the "Instituto do Vinho do Porto" in Oporto. It is the perfect after dinner wine and, as most people know, is an expensive and difficult wine; it should be uncorked and decanted if necessary some time before serving, then drunk quickly, that is, not kept for long. However the public demand for Vintage is always growing. Some Vintage Ports are collectors items only to be found in privileged cellars or in auction rooms.

Finally, to finish this article, let us consider a question that is frequently asked by young Port lovers: should one buy Port to lay down and drink years afterwards. The answer, not so easy, is yes and no. If one thinks of Reds, Rubies, Tawnies, Whites, that is of Ports aged in wood then its no, with some few exceptions, as the Shipper usually bottles his wine when he thinks it should be drunk. But one is thinking of Vintage or Crusted Ports, then it frequently could be yes, but then you must know your wines, or better still, ask the advice of a good Port wine merchant.



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PORT

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Whisky blends the best with experience

by Ian Crawford

Anyone whose experience of whisky has included a glass or two of any of the famous Highland single malts may well ask why there was ever any necessity to blend whisky at all. Malt devotees have always sworn that straight malt whisky, "chateau-bottled" as it were, from one distillery, is the finest spirit drink in the world. It is not a verdict with which I would quarrel but it is the blends which have made the name of Scotch whisky famous throughout the world and which have brought about its dominance in the international market.

The circumstances of their invention were a blend in themselves, a mixture of economics, enterprise and disaster. The disaster was European, although oddly enough the bug that caused it, *phylloxera vastatrix*, was first discovered in London. An American vine-lice, it swept through the vineyards of Europe in the 15 years after 1870, the greatest devastation the wine trade has ever suffered, until it was found that grafting American vine roots resistant to the *phylloxera* on to European vines, the vineyards could be brought back into health and productivity.

This is where whisky came in. The *phylloxera* destroyed the vineyards of the Charente, and with it the gentleman's spirit, brandy. Very little whisky had been drunk outside Scotland before 1870. In a Royal Commission, Winston Churchill wrote: "My father could never have drunk whisky except when shooting on a moor or in some very dull, chilly place."

The Highland pot-still whiskies with their rich and splendid flavours were difficult to obtain and often proved too rich for the tastes of the English market. On the other hand the grain whisky distilled in the Lowlands by the patent still method, from grain other than barley, produced a less elegant drink than palates accustomed to the finest cognacs would accept. The answer was a blend of the

two kinds of whisky, malt and grain. This mixture, in its many variations, enabled the establishment of brand names in whisky which are now famous throughout the world and ousted brandy from its premier place, which it has never regained.

William Sanderson, British wine and cordal manufacturer of Charlotte Lane, Edinburgh, has left us one of the earliest recipes for "mixture whisky": "10 gallons Glenlivet, 10 gallons Pitlochry, five gallons reduced mixed aqua, eight gallons grain, four gallons water, 1 gallon aqua shrub, eight gallons grain aqua."

The aqua referred to is not water but aqua vitae, the Latin version of *uisge beatha*, the Gaelic for "the water of life", which gives whisky its name. Just what the difference between grain and grain aqua is remains a mystery, as does the contents of aqua shrub, although presumably this is some kind of cordial mixed with whisky as a base, as shrub was an eighteenth-century name for a compounded drink made with orange or lemon juice, sugar and spirit.

Mr Sanderson's most successful mixture was to wait another occasion. So fascinated was he by the process of blending that he was with his experience in the cordal business, he determined to make a definitive Scotch blended whisky. Using the finest malt and grain whiskies, he compounded almost 100 blends, mixing them personally in small casks or "vats". Then he called his whisky-tasting cronies together and they began earnestly and scientifically—or so the tale goes—to choose the finest blend.

The unanimous choice fell on the contents of Vat 69, which remains the Sanderson brand name to this day. Leslie Scott, Sanderson's blending director, who is responsible for the production of Vat 69 and the de luxe whisky Antiquary, told me he hoped he was living up to the success of William Sanderson's recipe. At first, blended whisky was conditioned by the location of the blender and the number and styles of whisky easily available in the district. Today Mr Scott has at his disposal all the re-

sources of the huge DCI group and he blends his whiskies partly with computers, which work out what stocks of what whiskies, and of what age, it is necessary to lay down to meet the expected market demand in 10 to 15 years' time.

Like all blended whiskies, Vat 69 has a secret formula which gives it the taste that distinguishes it from other whiskies. The modern blend is complex; to maintain a constant quality and flavour Mr Scott's Vat 69 contains 45 different whiskies—40 malts and five grains.

The whisky is brought in from the subsidiary company, where it is stored and matured until ready for blending. The casks, of this and that style and age, are all tested on arrival before being put into the blending vat in the correct quantities.

In the blending vat they are "roused" with compressed air for 24 hours to make sure the whiskies are thoroughly mixed, and at this stage water is added to reduce the whisky to its retail proof stage of 70° (or sometimes more for export). Since the Sanderson plant at South Queensferry went on to Loch Lomond water about two years ago, Mr Scott told me it has proved so pure that the previously-used demineralization plant is redundant.

At all stages through the blend, checks are made by Mr Scott and his assistants. A little whisky is taken from the cask, put in a tulip-shaped "nosing" glass and sniffed. What they are looking for is not so much a variation in the blend as for the possibility that the whisky may have spent its maturing years in a cask with a rotting stave, which would give the spirit a corked taste, like a wine with a badly fitting or rotted cork.

There are also tests made by a chemist, but his job is to analyse the whisky for strength and cloudiness; deciding whether it is good or bad is strictly Mr Scott's department.

Although tasting is no longer done by sipping or rubbing whisky on your hands and sniffing the result, the remarkable variability and quality of the blends are a tribute to the combination of old skills and new applications of them which go into every bottle of whisky.

by Joyce Rackham

Unlike wine tasting, where the liquid is savoured on the palate, cognac must be tasted, evaluated and spat out at very high speed. Otherwise the fumes would soon "paralyse" the palate, and probably intoxicate the taster too.

"Now I have finished tasting for the week, I can enjoy a cigarette," said M Maurice Filloux, who represents the sixth generation of his family to be chief taster to the 212-year-old house of Hennessy, where he is also a senior director. Lightning a Gauloise, he told me: "When I was a student, I liked to smoke a pipe, but I had to give it up when I started work. Just one spoiled my palate for two days." To find such a distinguished taster taking pleasure in moderate smoking is not unusual, contrary to the legend, usually perpetuated by militant non-smokers, that such a habit injures the palate.

During the many weeks of the year when he is tasting daily, M Filloux goes without breakfast, like a devout communicant. He simply drinks tea or coffee, finding that butter and jam with bread or a croissant leave a lingering taste and separate on the tongue. "We need to seek out so many nuances in what we taste, not only to judge quality, but to detect and analyse defects, and be able to tell growers or distillers how to correct them."

M Filloux's father, whose portrait hangs in his office, refused to taste if he had a

cold. His son says he "can just manage, but it is not easy". He finds antibiotics affect his tasting adversely. Elegantly dressed in a navy blazer, blue cashmere sweater and grey flannels, M Filloux looks younger than his 51 years, and not like the layman's idea of a taster. This might be an austere white-coated figure, sniffing in antiseptic isolation in a laboratory, or maybe a robed, rubicund sort, like those monks in New Yorker cartoons, doing more swigging than spitting.

Maurice Filloux works in an agreeable office overlooking the distillery courtyard and its famous black tiled roofs. Much space is taken by the intricate filling system with details of all samples from growers and distillers who supply Hennessy; their stocks of mature cognac are the largest in the region. The firm's own 1,200-acre vineyards supply 15 per cent, a further 50 per cent comes from growers who sell their wine for them to distil. Another 20 per cent comes from distillers of new eaux-de-vie, made under the company's supervision. The other 15 per cent comes from 450 distillers of cognac more than a year old, working on what is called "a contract of mutual trust". No cognac is sold by the firm until it is more than three years old.

Few consumers drinking the older, more luxurious varieties like VSOP (very special old, pale) probably realize that as many as 80 different cognacs may have contributed to the blend. So it is not surprising that M Filloux says: "I never taste alone. I dislike it, like most

of my colleagues. There is such a sense of insecurity." Working with him are his nephew, M Yan Filloux (representing the seventh generation in the firm) and M Jacques Laine, who was assistant taster to his father. They usually begin at 10 am, taking two hours to taste 40 samples. "We stop when we get tired."

On days when the three cannot finish in the morning, they may taste a further 15 to 20 samples in the late afternoon. Maurice says he never accepts official luncheon invitations on such days, eats very lightly, and does not feel like drinking cognac after dinner. "So I really enjoy it when I go out with friends."

During the winter, the tasters' hardest day is Wednesday, when from 9 am until about 7 pm they receive between 40 and 50 producers, bringing two or three samples which they taste together. "Conversation is endless, from serious analysis of the samples to their family problems, and local gossip. It can get exhausting, but it is often amusing," Maurice says, suddenly breaking into a search of local dialect, the Basque of local dialect, he considers, is "immensely calm, stubborn and honest". Tasting is done in elegant tulip-shaped glasses, over 50 tall from base to brim. Those bulbous balloons, beloved of so many of our restaurateurs, are never seen in Cognac.

On a lovely early November day, when the Charente basked in Indian summer sunshine, we drove over to

the oldest Hennessy chateau (store above ground level) to Le Paradis, the silent, much-cobwebbed home of their most venerable and valuable stock, some of which is up to 150 years old.

"These are not museum pieces. We use a small proportion of them in our luxury blends like XO and Extra." He also explained the long-standing tradition, passed from father to son, that the best examples of Reserve Nouvelle cognacs from five to 50 years old will not be touched in his lifetime, but put aside for the generations to come. In Le Paradis we tasted an exquisite 1815, still kept in the cask, and a voluptuous 1900.

There is no exact rule about how long cognac can mature in wood, but when it reaches its limit there, it is transferred to glass demijohns, which keep it stable. The name of Napoleon brandy by French law now refers to a type of cognac which must be more than five years old. "I know the name, Louis XIV and Louis XV were tried out and had no sales appeal," Napoleon, however, sells well in duty-free shops—and to the Japanese."

Between May and September, the tasters must check on the extent of evaporation, and on the alcoholic degree of every one of 200,000 casks. It takes them about four and a half months to evaluate the development of between 1,500 and 2,000 different cognacs, destined later for a variety of blends. "Like people, some wear well, and some mature better, while others decline."



Maurice Filloux never manages to take more than a week or 10 days' holiday, usually in April, and generally to seek the sun. Evidently a happy bachelor, whose friends have given up trying to marry off, he has travelled widely, from Africa to the Antilles, and loves to experiment with unfamiliar cuisines and wines. He says he "adores champagne" and that next year he plans to study burgundy. He finds continuous fascination in tasting. "There is always something new to learn."

Not long ago his firm put a new VSOP on the market. It is elegant, rather "leafy" and fragrant and is the result of four years' work by him and his colleagues in determining the required blend. "The demand for something lighter and easier to drink than the previous VSOP (his grandfather's blend) is what we hope to satisfy."

Eye, nose and palate detect 'le vrai' armagnac

by Geoffrey Weston

Armagnac is the oldest brandy-producing area in France. Tucked away to the north-west of the Pyrenees, and, unlike Cognac, cut off from easy access to ports, the producers depended for centuries on the shippers in

Bordeaux who used to sell armagnac simply as brandy or eau de vie d'Aquitaine.

Production is only a tenth of that in Cognac and is remarkably fragmented. There are 18,000 growers of vines, mostly on mixed farms, of whom 1,300 make armagnac. After the harvest the owners of travelling stills, which resemble horse-drawn fire engines (alambics), would tour the area and distil the wine at the vineyards. Today it is more economical to collect the wine in tankers and carry it to a central distillery, although there is no clear-cut pattern in the industry and a dozen of the old travelling stills are in use today.

The present appellations, fixed in 1909, apply only to the spirit and not to the local white wine from which it is made. Three star (not younger than three years for the British market) and VSOP (at least four years old) are standard categories. Five-year-old armagnac carries a variety of names according to the producer but includes XO, Napoléon, Vieille Réserve and Hors d'Age. All of these are older but some producers offer vintage armagnac, which is the fine distillation of just one year.

There are still people who remember the categories *filons quatre* and *filons six*—bottles with four or six loops of string round the necks to indicate the quality to illiterate bartenders. Many other oddities survive from earlier years. The floors of the *chais* (warehouses) are spotted, but as Pierre Jannau, one of the best known producers, points out, the spider webs are left for a purpose.

Chestnut bands that traditionally protect the belly of the cask when it is moved are attacked by wood-boring insects which are kept under control by the spiders which feed on them.

Another producer, Sempé, offers armagnac in bottles of 30 different shapes, including the traditional flat Basque bottle. This practice is likely to fall victim to commercial pressures.

Making armagnac, in spite of modern bottling and marketing techniques, is still shrouded in mystery and depends a great deal on the skill and craftsmanship of individuals. Most producers do not then measure the spirit into a continuous still which the wine enters at a regulated rate, but the heat and flow must be checked and controlled manually. At one distillery I visited earlier this month, three men worked in shifts around the clock and in the evenings each of the wives in turn would bring food to cook by the wood fire of the still and the family would sit down to dinner near by.

The stills themselves are a riot of copper, an essential material, with domed chambers like the cupolas atop Moscow's St Basil's Cathedral. An experiment to distil in glass containers proved a failure because the spirit did not then measure in the cask apparently through the lack of a copper catalyst.

Options are divided over the merits of the pot still (the cognac method)—a double distillation method which is not continuous but has been tried apparently with success by some producers.

Blending takes place immediately after distillation in huge vats. If the new vintage is poor, the taster may have to improve it with proportions of armagnac from earlier years or from other areas. There are three sub-regions—Bas Armagnac, which gives the spirit its finesse, Ténarèze, which gives it body and lasting

aroma, and to a much lesser extent Haut Armagnac, which is switching increasingly to red wine production. It is the soil which gives fine armagnac its characteristic aroma of prunes (or, in a few cases, violets) that lingers in the glass long after it has been drained.

Much of the skill is wielded by the *maître de chai*, who relies on his eye, nose and palate to cull the casks during the aging process. The casks themselves are made from oak trees grown in Gascony and used by the armagnac makers as a brand and axe to avoid cutting across the grain, thereby reducing the seepage. Three per cent a year is lost by evaporation, known locally as "the angels' share".

The spirit is coloured by the oak and flavoured by its tannin, but after a few months it must be transferred to older casks to prevent the tannin content becoming too concentrated. Several cask changes are necessary during the maturing process. Production has dropped in some areas in recent years, and this year's is especially small, although sales to Britain, the fifth largest market, are rising.

Producers vary from the Marquis de Montesquiou, who uses his own ancient distillery, to a modern French soldier in individual building, all now owned by a family, who moved their business to the twentieth-century family chateau only three years ago. Since 1962 most of the small producers have been represented by a union of cooperatives (UCVA), which sells mainly under the name Marquis de Caussade.

Although 16 brands are now sold in Britain, three local products are not exported. They are *floc de Gasconne* (a new wine fortified with armagnac, not yet on the market), *pousse raprière* (a cocktail made from a local sparkling wine with an orange and armagnac liqueur) and *prunes in armagnac*, which sells well in the market for the qualities of their contents.



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It may come as a surprise to many people to learn that today the largest single producer of sparkling wine by the méthode champenoise in the world is actually an old-established Catalan family firm called Codorniu—although it is not quite so surprising when one learns that the Codorniu estate, in the provinces of Barcelona and Lerida, is 20,000 acres in extent—or very nearly half the size of the entire champagne field of France. In fact there is documentary evidence to show that the firm of Codorniu was already in existence in 1531. In 1659 the last heir of the family, Maria Ana Codorniu, was married to Miguel Raventos. And it was a descendant of this distinguished house, Jose Raventos, who in 1872 unearthed the first bottle, produced in a Spanish cellar, of sparkling wine made strictly according to Dom Pérignon's méthode champenoise.

Today, the Codorniu estate at San Sadurn de Noya, 20 miles from Barcelona, attracts up to 150,000 visitors every year when you go there you will see why. The main buildings are built around a country house: away into the distance, out towards the mountains of Montserrat, stretch the vineyards with their four types of grape—the white Xarello, Macabeo and Parellada, and the black Monastell. Who could imagine that, beneath it all, were ten miles of man-made caves, on five levels—the largest, and still growing, underground wine cellars in the world—containing about 100 million bottles of wine.

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SOMETIMES ONE HAS TO WIN

After more than two weeks, the advantage in the firemen's strike appears to be moving clearly towards the Government. In the early days, it seemed very possible that the public fear induced by a type of industrial action never before experienced on a national scale might create an irresistible pressure for capitulation. But as the days have passed, not without fire or casualties, the situation has become less unfamiliar. However, dreadful it may be to some, the danger for each family remains statistically remote. In this sense, a union that provides some convenient everyday service may bring more pressure to bear than one that saves lives. The TUC has held aloof. Other unions have been more forthcoming with verbal than financial support, and the most urgent question seems increasingly to be how long the firemen can last without strike pay.

It is true that where public safety is concerned alarm can grow quickly and unpredictably: one serious fire in a hospital or old people's home could still cause a public reaction against the Government. The firemen's readiness to offer help is in danger (for which they deserve all credit) has itself tended to prevent panic. The longer the strike goes on, the better reason the Government has to be ready to ride out any temporary gusts of public opinion. The chosen formula for wage restraint does not make

it obligatory to hold every group to 10 per cent; initially, there might have been a case for allowing the firemen a little over the odds. But their determination to hold out for 30 per cent or near it made compromise impossible. Once they had gone on strike, the Government (itself the employer, in the last resort) had no choice but to resist. Surrender would have been to invite every employer in the private sector to do the same, whatever the merits of the demands they were faced with.

Nor is the firemen's claim more than marginally exceptional. In view of the failure of so many attempts to set up an acceptable link between their pay and that of other kinds of workers, there is no surer way of judging their rates than to ask whether recruits are still coming forward in adequate numbers. In spite of exceptions in particular areas, no evidence has been produced to suggest that national recruitment problems exist even on a scale comparable with the sometimes exaggerated ones of the police. Firemen's work is dangerous, though in terms of fatal accidents no more so than work on a farm. Their earnings are not low—certainly not by comparison with farm labourers or some of the soldiers in the Green Goddesses—and their job involves very obvious non-monetary personal rewards. Their hours are to be reduced in a few months with no loss of pay.

One widely canvassed way out of the deadlock would be to make it illegal for firemen to strike, and to give them a large award by way of compensation. An invitation to give up the strike weapon would scarcely commend itself to the union at the very moment when a strike had brought a big rise within reach. The fortunes of the police in recent years might seem an encouraging long-term precedent. Since a prohibition on striking by any large and determined body of workers would in practice be unenforceable in our society, the proposal would offer no real guarantee against future action. As for the immediate consequences, it would be the percentage gain, not the notional sacrifice, that would impress itself on other claimants.

For better or worse, the case of the firemen has gained a crucial significance in this year's pay round. There is still scope for yielding a couple of percentage points as a face-saver. There is need for new and more purposeful talks about relating rates to that of some comparable group or groups. But when the firemen's leaders meet Mr Callaghan today they must understand that in the national context the overriding issue now at stake is not the details of their claim, but the authority of the Government, which, with or without an incomes policy, is the employer in the public sector.

TWO OXEN CONDEMNED TO ONE YOKE

“One can be a good Catholic, like most Poles, and at the same time be an active participant in the construction of a socialist state, as most Poles are,” said Mr Edward Giersek, the Polish party leader, in 1974. This week, during his visit to Italy, he will be the first communist leader of Poland to be received by the Pope. It will be an event of historic importance, showing how far Church and State have moved since the bitter confrontations of the 1950s. The relationship is still not nearly as easy as Mr Giersek's optimistic remarks suggest. There is still fundamental ideological confrontation and a struggle for the basic loyalty of the nation. There is also a constant tug-of-war over specific issues. But there is also mutual respect, an awareness of common concern for the national interest, and an increasing element of healthy realism on both sides.

The role of the Church has been described as that of a loyal opposition because it must reject the atheistic basis of communism and defend the rights of believers, and because it regards itself as having more real historical legitimacy than the present regime as defender

not only of the faith but of the Polish nation. It therefore felt called upon to protest with some success, as it turned out, against a new draft constitution which seemed to limit Polish sovereignty. But just because it sees itself as representing the Polish nation it is also loyal at every point where it believes the regime to be acting in the national interest. “Next to God, our first love is Poland,” Cardinal Wyszynski has said.

The delicate balance between loyalty and opposition was most severely tested after the food price rise in June last year. On the one hand the Church saw the need for price rises and the danger of a breakdown in public order. On the other hand it has felt more and more called upon to champion the rights not only of believers but of citizens in general, and particularly the new urban working classes, among whom its authority could be in the long run diminished, as in other industrial societies. In September last year, the bishops issued a two-part appeal. On the one hand they called on the people for increased effort and “solid work”. On the other, they called for “sacrifices for the common good and to preserve social order”.

On the other hand they called on the state “to cease its oppression of workers who took part in the anti-government protests”. Those sentences should be amended. The Government, however, did not play fair. It published the first part without the second. The Church then moved steadily into more open defence of the workers and of the committee set up on their behalf by a number of intellectuals.

With the possibility of more trouble this winter if prices are increased, as they will have to be as some point, the Government will be anxious to make making the same type of mistake again. It needs the support of the Church both in the short run to discourage disorder and in the long run to win the type of national legitimacy which only the Church can bestow. The Church's response is likely to be conditional, as always, on its being accorded the respect due to it and its members. But it is also unlikely to relinquish its claim to be judge of when the interests of the regime and the nation are in reasonable harmony. Mr Giersek's visit to the Vatican is a hopeful indication that for the moment they are regarded as being so.

MR FUKUDA BREAKS THE MACMILLAN RECORD

In any western democracy a Cabinet upheaval so great as to replace all but two of the old members would mark a crisis in the affairs of the ruling party at the very least. Only issues of national concern could justify it. Such assumptions may be mistaken in assessing Mr Fukuda's new team in Japan. This is partly because politics and political leaders occupy a much lower status in the public mind in Japan's democracy than they do in the West—a fact that it is hard for the western democrats to grasp. Indeed, since the Lockheed scandal and Mr Tanaka's fall that status may have declined even more. For all their favoured “low posture” approach, however, there are times when the Japanese Government must react. Japan's mounting trade surplus with the United States and with the European Community has now become the most urgent matter of external relations.

The new Cabinet looks much more workmanlike than the old one, which several appointments were a response to party pressures. In particular, the new men include some who are well placed to tackle the crucial issue of the trade imbalance. Mr

Kuchi Miyazawa goes to the Economic Planning Agency and Mr Nobuhiko Uchida, not long retired from the embassy in Washington, to a new post as Minister for External Economic Affairs. Both are able spokesmen for Japan who are also familiar with western conditions and attitudes.

But ministerial changes may not be enough to alter very quickly the ever-increasing trade imbalance any more than it promises to be righted of itself by the ever-rising yen. Here, too, basic Japanese feelings are at stake. Japan's economy is unquestionably part of the world economy of the advanced nations but Japan has not yet, in any active and committed way, brought herself to be a part of that world. Hence a response that is defensive, seeking acceptance and justifying it by the unanswerable argument of Japan's efficiency as an exporter, while at the same time standing aside somewhat from an international responsibility.

Another urgent matter of external relations emerges from the appointment of Mr Sumao Sonoda as Foreign Minister. He is known as a supporter of the long-delayed treaty with China.

Japan has hitherto been unwilling to accept the clause opposing hegemony on which the Chinese insist but which the Russians complain is directed against them. If Japan signs this, they have said—and *Pravda* said it again last week—it would be regarded as an unfriendly gesture in Moscow.

Can Mr Fukuda find an acceptable formula? Even if the Chinese are prepared to be flexible it is likely to be one that will mollify the Russians. Besides, the Russians have yet to sign their treaty ending the war with Japan, the obstacle in that quarter being the seized northern islands which the Russians refuse to return to Japanese sovereignty. Faced with such manoeuvres it is not surprising that the Japanese should have piped up with their own retort by referring to the Sino-Soviet treaty signed in 1950 and valid for thirty years joining the two communist powers against Japan or any power allied with Japan—that not cause for present protest? All these are problems for an undecided Japan that will not be solved simply by reshuffling Cabinets.

at their very bravest, could only be described as nine day wonders. Yours faithfully, R. B. WILLIAMS, Sometime Coldstream Guards, 9 Gordon Place, Manchester. November 24.

Mapping buried history

From Miss C. Lovell
Sir, The Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division has begun cancelling its subscriptions to archaeological periodicals. This is only to be expected if the appalling decision to mutilate the division is being implemented; but it raises the very important question of what is to happen to a superb working library that has been maintained at the division over a period of more than fifty years. Will it be kept in its present state for the benefit of the public? Or will it be quietly dispersed without anyone being given the chance to raise a protest? Yours faithfully, CHERRY LAYELL, Editor, *British Archaeological Abstracts*, 24 Fitzroy Road, NW1. November 22.

Refurbishing the SS image

From Mr Frank Ziegler
Sir, It needed someone like Terence Pringle (November 21), whose excellent reports on Germany for *The Times* have been a constant reminder of the emotion and confusion that the SS still seems to engender.

From 1946 to 1947 I was a member of the Review and Interrogation staff at an internment camp like the one Mr Pringle visited. The bulk of the 6,000 or so inmates comprised former SS personnel—including members of the Allgemeine SS, Gestapo and SD—and officials of the NSDAP (party) hierarchy, and our job was to interrogate, classify and release as many inmates as Allied security and military government policy permitted. But the SS having been adjudged a criminal organization by Nuremberg, we were not allowed to release during the whole of this period, even though the Waffen SS (the majority) consisted mainly of quite junior NCOs as guinea pigs of the SS as the one interviewed by Mr Pringle. Even members of the Totenkopf (Dead's Head) Brigade, a unit specially concerned with supplying guards for concentration camps, solemnly swore that

they themselves had no dealings with the prisoners at all.

Obviously some individuals and some units of the Waffen SS were guilty of atrocities—and our camp did contain its quota of known war criminals—but for Dr Benedikt (also November 21) to declare that “Waffen SS was one single organization and all SS divisions were engaged in criminal activities” seems rather to spoil his case by overstatement. Moreover, I think it true to say that the policy of brutality on the German eastern front was not carried out by units of the Waffen SS alone.

Yours faithfully, FRANK ZIEGLER, Rissington, Farnham Lane, Haslemere, Surrey. November 24.

From Mr R. B. Williams
Sir, Herr Meyer is to be congratulated on the invention of his maledictive euphemism for Nazi atrocities, what he calls the “negative aspect” of SS behaviour. However, his analogous reference to RM Guards should be refused. Guards tradition has been produced by centuries of achievement, by comparison, Herr Meyer's SS units,

Discontent in the services over pay

From Brigadier Sheffield Bidwell

Sir, It is some time since I was in direct contact with the rank and file of the army, but I think I can comment usefully on the article by a “serving officer” on pay (November 24). His historical position, mislaid, to say the least, is that there has been no occasion on which the King's troops have either indulged in “collective bargaining” or been punished by being blown from the sky. I suspect the incident concerned Indian troops of the East India Company. Far from being “regularly paid”, to take one example, the pay of one of the most successful armies we ever put in the field, in the Peninsula, was often months in arrears. As for motivation, even when I joined my battery in 1934 the majority of my section were driven into the army as the result of two evils, the other being unemployment, and the duty of the soldiers was, except for a few NCOs, unmarried, and once in the army found a congenial refuge in one or other of the penitentiaries, military or civilian.

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Yours faithfully, SHEFFIELD BIDWELL, 5 Chapel Lane, Wakeham Market, Seaford. November 25.

From Squadron Leader A. P. Galea

Sir, The article today (November 24) on the pay of the armed forces referred to the attempt to deprive short service commissioned officers of their gratuities as an “unfounded rumour”. This rumour was solidly based on a Defence Council instruction to that effect. Its non-implementation to the individuals concerned was due largely to the intervention of MPs and newspaper publicity after months of unsuccessful collection by the Defence Council. This attempt to alter terms of employment without reference to the people affected is but one instance of a process which has been eroding trust and loyalty within the armed forces.

Service men are rapidly coming to the conclusion that no reliance

can be placed on faceless government bureaucrats to treat them fairly in the absence of “union” representatives. While the majority of all ranks would have no truck with the unions there is a groundswell for a truly representative Association which the Armed Forces Pay Review Body is not. Yours sincerely, A. P. GALEA, 4 Winchester Close, Chippenham, Wiltshire. November 24.

From Major-General J. Sheffield
Sir, As a result of successive financial cuts in defence the logistic base of the Services has been eroded. Soldiers have been replaced with static civilians; functions such as feeding have been centralized, and the reserve of accommodation afforded by TA Drill Halls has been liquidated.

In consequence there has been a loss of mobility and the Services are now expected to literally pull the politicians' chestnut out of the fire with totally inadequate resources.

Yours faithfully, J. SHEFFIELD, 11 Pitt Street, W8. November 23.

From Mr Graham M. Neil

Sir, I was full of admiration for the Lieutenant-Colonel in Manchester who had the courage to speak publicly about pay and conditions of his men.

As any good commander clearly has the interests of his officers and men at heart, but in making a public statement he is taking the risk of being disciplined by his senior officers with possible jeopardy to his own military future.

I hope that Mr Malley, having read his report, has the same courage as his subordinate and supports his views.

Obviously there is a problem, otherwise a soldier at the present stage of his career would not have sacrificed as much as he has done.

Yours, etc., G. M. NEIL, 74 Grosvenor Street, W1.

The Palestinian issue

From Mr Elkan Pressman
Sir, During the Yom Kippur war you were kind enough to publish a letter from me in which I called for the Israeli Government to declare that everything was negotiable in the pursuit of peace. Amongst the many letters I received at the time there were many from known supporters of Mr Begin knocking my letter for being too idealistic and a statement to be a form of national meachery.

Now that Mr Begin has himself made such a declaration, a further step forward along the lines of a Palestinian declaration is indicated. I am sure that Mr Begin and Mr Frankl in *The Times* today (November 25) become a real possibility and an entirely necessary. This is a proposal entirely in keeping with the Zionist dream and is in line with the requirements of a Palestinian state, as one of the “substantial” political divisions between Israel and the Arab states is such an avoidance of the real issue as to be “breath-taking”. In a responsible publication it is not possible to ignore the requirements of a Palestinian state, as now being universally recognized and that even Israel's closest ally, the United States, has come round to that view.

He writes too of “the Palestine Liberation Organization's public relations machine, which took over”

where the Nazis left off in urging the destruction of the Jewish people.” This is totally untrue and he must be aware that when Christopher Mayhew offered a substantial sum to anyone who could provide evidence of such an action they would not have been able to substantiate such an untrue allegation and got a penny was paid.

Even Eric Moonman must have heard of Yasser Arafat's offer at the UN that the Jewish community in Israel/Palestine would be entitled to say in that land. And for a respected colleague to dismiss the murderous attacks by the Air Force of the State of Israel on the Gaza Strip as “unprovoked” is a gross distortion of the facts. The “responsible” raids against terrorists is a totally dishonest. Such attacks are a massive overreaction to isolated guerrilla incidents and would be the cause of an international outcry if the perpetrators were any other than the Israelis with the international Zionist connections throughout the mass media of the Western world.

Responsible writing should be the first requirement of one of our regular columnists. Sincerely, ANDREW FAULDS, House of Commons.

World living standards

From Professor M. W. Thring
Sir, In your leading editorial of November 22 you wisely and thoughtfully considered the long-term strategy appropriate for the British steel industry. I would, however, like to query one point, your use of the phrase “when the recession is over”.

It is normal in all strategic planning to assume that we shall return to a period of economic growth in the not too distant future. I believe there are strong technological reasons for supposing that in the long term there will be little if any more growth in average standard of living in the developed countries and indeed there must be a steady contraction as far as the use of raw materials and energy is concerned.

Clearly all growth curves must come to a stop, due to the limitation of the earth's resources, among which one must particularly mention energy. The world's supply of coal and high grade iron ore. The overriding factor, however, is that it is essential to have a substantial growth in the standard of living of the under-developed countries of the world over-population and World War Three are to be avoided.

Report on Argentina

From the Secretary General, Amnesty International

Sir, Reporting on Argentina in *The Times* of Friday, November 25, your correspondent Andrew Tarnowski passed some remarks about Amnesty International which, in need of correction. He appears to misunderstand both what Amnesty International has done and what it might reasonably be expected to do. Mr Tarnowski suggests that our organization, like other “liberals” overseas, who have “pilloried” the Argentine military Government, has played down, if not condoned, the activities of terrorist groups in the country. In its 92-page report, he says, “Amnesty carried six lines on six years of guerrilla atrocities”. In fact the report contains over 100 lines on guerrilla violence (for the period covered by the report, March 1976 and some of these people are demonstrably innocent of any subversive activity or intent. The gravity of the situation in Argentina has rightly been recognized in a *Times* editorial of September 9, 1977, and also by the fact that General Videla in his recent visit to Buenos Aires presented the Argentine authorities with a list of 7,500 detained and disappeared persons.

The Amnesty International report on Argentina was prepared with scrupulous care from extensive documentation. Anyone truly interested in its conclusions should read it with more thoroughness than your reporter appears to have done. Yours faithfully, MARTIN ENNALS, Amnesty International, 10 Southampton Street, WC2. November 28.

Romania's Jews

From Mr Ion Ratiu

Sir, All Romanian democrats will welcome Dr Immanuel Jakobovits' sensitive and authoritative reporting on Romanian Jewry today (*“For Romania's Jews, the scars are healing”*, November 17). We are happy to have the Chief Rabbi's confirmation that an older, truer, Romanian tradition has at last displaced the right-wing aberrations of the thirties.

For the sake of the historical truth one should perhaps also record that Romania steadfastly refused to deliver one single “concentration” camp to the gas chambers. The 425,000 Jewish victims attributed to Romania in the “Yad Vashem” memorial in Jerusalem should rightly be chalked up against the Hungarians, the Russians and the Germans who ruled Northern Transylvania, Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina during the holocaust. The Jews in those areas were practically wiped out.

I condemn, unreservedly, the isolated excesses committed, notably at Iassy and Bucharest, but, in my considered view, the numbers of Jews in territories that stayed Romanian throughout the last war actually increased, which explains the present 250,000 plus Israeli citizens of Romanian origin. Yours faithfully, ION RATIU, 54-52 Regent Street, W1.

Saving historic ships

From Mr Frank Carr

Sir, In his letter (November 25) Dr Robert Clarke calls attention to the omission of the American whaler, *Charles W. Morgan* from my article (November 19) on the preservation of historic ships. I had not forgotten her, but she was a small vessel built in 1841 for a limited trade, that of catching whales. The *Constitution* was a square-rigged, like-wise survivor, but she was built as a warship in 1797. Neither is 1899, as was the *Kahlan* of 1899, of the last American built sailing merchantman, which is what I had in mind.

To clarify the issue, I would quote from the Fall, 1977 number of *Sea History*, the journal of the National Maritime Historical Society, in which the President, Mr Peter Stanford, writes: “The *Constitution* was formed in 1793... it saved the souls of the American people, and to see her restored as the last surviving American deepwaterman to carry passengers and freight under sail—the last of the square riggers that built the Republic's flag famous at sea.”

The failure of that project dramatically emphasizes my argument that financial backing is as necessary as dedicated enthusiasm if the craft are to be saved for posterity. Yours faithfully, FRANK CARR, 10 Park Gate, Blackheath, SE3.

Questioning the preacher

From Mr Bernard Denvir

Sir, Congregations in the past have not always been as unresponsive as Mr Hart suggests in today's columns (November 20). On May 16 1932 Mario Sazoum noted a letter from Carlo Capello, the Venetian Ambassador to England, in which he recounted that “On the 13th inst in St Paul's an individual preached in favour of the divorce, and a woman stood up and told him aloud that he lied, and that this example in a king would be the destruction of the laws of matrimony, which is one of the holiest and strongest ties, whereby a man is restrained within the limits of civil and Christian existence”.

The fact that she was arrested may of course have helped to discourage who today, would not doubt describe as “viable” interpersonal communication patterns on theological themes in a “bureaucratic” context, emerging as freely as they might otherwise have done. Yours, etc., BERNARD DENVIR, 40 Dover Street, W1.

Case for a free currency

From Mr John G. Phillimore

Sir, Lord Balogh's letter to your comprehending the Chancellor of the Exchequer for “his usual advice” for a free currency (November 24) typifies the myopic Socialist approach that has brought the affairs of this country to so low an ebb.

For many of us, it is a cause for shame rather than satisfaction that, alone of the world's leading industrial countries, we have been denied the prestige and the benefits of a free currency for the past 33 years. And now, it is the time to free it, with North Sea oil practically guaranteeing us a favourable balance of payments for some years ahead.

In any case, we are not bound, under our commitments to the EEC, to allow free movement of capital by next year. Lord Balogh seems to assume that, if exchange controls were removed, everyone would rush to invest abroad. He is a poor psychologist. One can only doubt, demonstrated by his own confidence in our currency by removing its props, both Britons and foreigners would be more likely to feel confidence in investing in British industry, than they are today.

Lord Balogh makes the surprising assertion that British industrial leadership has been “undiminished since at least 1673” by the death of Cromwell. He is a poor psychologist. One can only doubt, demonstrated by his own confidence in our currency by removing its props, both Britons and foreigners would be more likely to feel confidence in investing in British industry, than they are today.

In fact our investments abroad, over the last century, have been brought back, as he unimaginatively suggests, but by developing worldwide sources of cheap food for our people and raw materials for our industries by creating demand overseas for our industrial products, and through the vast related insurance and shipping income that forms so large an element in the invisible export surplus that has saved our bacon for so many years past. Not to mention the fact that, had it not been for the accumulation of these great overseas assets by our hard-working forebears, we should have been hard put to it to survive the two world wars of this century.

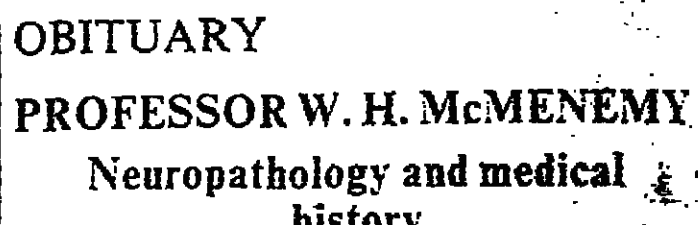
Yours faithfully, JOHN PHILLIMORE, The Postern, Postern Lane, Tooting, Kent. November 25.

South African doctors

From Dr R. A. Storrer

Sir, It seems from your report of November 23 of the *Steve Biko* inquiry that an investigation ought to be carried out into the medical competence and professional conduct of the doctors who examined Dr Biko, in particular Dr L. J. van der Merwe and Dr Benjamin Tlou.

If such an inquiry is not carried out by the medical authorities, then South Africa in the near future may find itself in a position to recognize South African medical qualifications forthwith. Yours faithfully, R. A. STORRER, Barking Hospital, Barking, Essex.



Professor Georges Henryer, the distinguished neuro-psychiatrist, a member of the National Academy of Medicine, died on October 23 at his Paris home.

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Gardiner.
Hon. Treasurer: The Rt. Hon. Christopher Chataway.

have been made. One way out is to regard it as either a myth or a miracle, not astronomical at all, but that is hardly a scientific approach. Let us assume that there was an astronomical event, but that the story has been "embroidered" in the telling, a basic fact with unreliable details. There have been many ideas, such as a

historical research puts the probable date of the birth of Jesus at 6 BC, and astronomical research has shown that in 7 BC there was a rare (but not unique) series of conjunctions of the bright planets Jupiter and Saturn. They passed each other, three times, and were no more than three degrees apart for much of

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Big banks divided over size of increase in base lending rates

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

Uncertainty over the short-term outlook for interest rates has led to sharp differences of opinion among clearing banks over base rates.

Leading the way, National Westminster announced an increase in its base rate early in the day of a full 1½ per cent to 7½ per cent. This was followed by Lloyds which hiked its rise by 1 point to 7 per cent.

Barclays, usually the pacesetter on base rate changes, and Midland both preferred to wait to see how interest rates shape up before changing their base rates.

Apart from Coutts, part of the NatWest group, the other banks are taking a back seat until they see which way Barclays and Midland move. The rises are in response to the increase to 7 per cent from 5½ per cent in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate.

To buttress the probability of their domestic banking operations, which have come under mounting strain this year as a result of the rapid fall in interest rates, NatWest and Lloyds have widened the margin between their base and deposit rates from 3 to 3½ per cent.

NatWest is raising the rate on seven-day branch deposits by a point to 4 per cent while Lloyds has kept the increase down to ½ per cent to 3½ per cent.

A split on base rates last developed just over a year ago

when Barclays pushed up its rate to 14 per cent, half a point more than the other three clearers for a brief period.

The major banks can stay out of line for a short time, particularly with a growing proportion of lending to corporate customers now tied to money market rather than base rates; but the competitive pressures are such that account switching would develop over the longer term.

Money market rates, however, failed to give a decisive lead to base rates yesterday. The key indicator for base rates, three month inter-bank rate, continued to firm throughout the day to close at almost 7 per cent, but it was not strong enough to suggest another rise in MLR this week.

If rates do level out it seems likely that Lloyds could turn out to have reached its increase correctly. But Mr John Montgomery, chief general manager of Lloyds, was leaving his options open by saying that should there be a further rise in the general level of rates we may well have to increase our base rate further.

Both Barclays and Midland are expected to make their base rate moves in the next day or so.

While base rate changes will be reflected in overdraft borrowing—personal customers pay between 3 and 5 per cent over base rate—there is little chance of any immediate change in the costs of borrowing elsewhere.

Hattersley guidelines for review of competition

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

An inter-departmental working party to review competition policy was announced yesterday by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The review, with an interim report called for as a matter of urgency by the spring, could result in the criteria governing the assessment of the desirability of particular mergers and monopolies being rewritten.

Mr Hattersley made it clear that it was possible existing mergers could be affected once new legislation was introduced. But in that respect there could be practical difficulties, he pointed out.

He was looking to more government intervention in pursuit of an increase of efficiency, including an encouragement of competition. This could spread to the securities market, he said.

Asked if that meant the Government was moving towards the setting up of a system like the Securities and Exchange Commission in the United States, Mr Hattersley said that would mean waiting for the working party's report as well as that of the Wilson Committee.

Possible changes in mergers and monopoly policy will be the first priority of the review, which will then move on to other aspects of competition policy such as restrictive trading practices, where the question of the professions is expected to have a big part.

The working party has also been asked to consider whether the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Price Commission should be fused into one organisation.

At the moment Mr Hattersley is inclined to favour such a fusion, but there are expected to be arguments that one body should investigate and a separate one make judicial decisions, rather as the OFT and Monopolies Commission do at present.

Major changes from the review are some likely to be a job for the next Government, but the last sessions of the present one. A discussion Green Paper may be issued in due course.

The review has been prompted by growing concern about the growing concentration of British industry.

Mr Hattersley maintained that there was no clash with the Government's industrial strategy which would be to encourage since government departments, there needed to be made on a case-by-case basis. He planned to amend the Fair Trading Act 1973 as soon as possible to make this clear in relation to mergers.

Nationalised industries, now under Price Commission scrutiny, will not come within the scope of the review.

In reassessing competition criteria the working party will look at problems of product domination and whether market share benchmarks will need to be changed. The position of conglomerate companies will be scrutinised.

Financial Editor, page 19

US trade deficit grows by \$3,100m

By Caroline Atkinson

America's trade gap widened to a record \$3,100m (about £1,700m) in October. This was about \$600m larger than market expectations and compares with a September deficit of \$1,700m.

The dollar's weakness weakened the news. It touched DM 2.21 and 2.14 Swiss francs—both record lows—before recovering slightly at the London close. Japan held the yen down to close at 240.25 to the dollar.

But the size of the deficit last month to some extent exaggerates the underlying trade gap. A dock strike on the east coast of America has distorted the payments figures for both September and October.

It began on October 1 and some exports were brought forward in anticipation. There was a large rise in overseas sales in September and a consequent drop of \$1,700m in October to \$9,190m. Imports also fell, to \$12,290m from \$12,530m.

Mr Courtney Slater, chief economist of the Department of Commerce, pointed this out when announcing the October figure yesterday.

She said that the widening of the deficit in October stemmed from temporary factors rather than from a worsening in the underlying position.

When September and October are averaged the performance on both imports and exports seems little different from the previous six months at about \$10,000m and \$12,500m respectively.

So far this year the United States has been in deficit by \$22,400m compared with a deficit of \$4,900m in the first 10 months of last year. This spectacular deterioration has been the reason for the dollar's fall against major currencies in the past few months.

Latest figures show the United States trade gap running at an annual rate of \$27,000m. This is in line with recent forecasts both from the American Administration and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

An expected surplus on invisible trade should make the current account deficit about \$10,000m smaller.

The size of the gap is due to huge

increases in oil imports, and the relatively weak demand for American exports. The latter in turn reflects the much faster growth in America than in the rest of the industrialized world.

Last month's figures were helped by a drop of 3.9 per cent in oil imports. The dollar's fall so far this year has been concentrated against the strong Japanese, German, Swiss and British currencies.

In effective terms the rate is scarcely changed from the level of a year ago, and only about 2½ per cent down on its best level of this year.

Gold: The price of gold jumped by \$3.25 an ounce in London yesterday to close at \$161.625. Dealers attributed the rise to a general unwillingness to sell in view of the dollar's continued weakness.

The price is still well down on its recent highs of \$167.168 an ounce. Sterling closed up 0.1 on the effective exchange rate index at 63.3, with a five-point gain against the dollar at \$1.8190. The dollar closed at DM 2.214 and 2.143 Swiss francs.

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Rivals unite for \$5,000m Nigeria gas plant deal

Nigeria is to go ahead with construction of a large liquefied natural gas plant in partnership with five foreign oil companies. The gas will be for export.

A formal announcement by Nigeria's military rulers of a new shareholding agreement is expected shortly and will signal the start of real progress on the scheme which is likely to cost between \$4,500m (£2,500m) and \$4,900m.

Two separate schemes have been under discussion for several years but the participation of the two schemes have agreed to join forces with the federal military Government to establish a single facility to be located on the river Bonny.

If the plans proceed, Nigeria could be shipping its first gas to the United States and Western Europe early in the 1980s. But it will not be until well into the decade that the project will achieve its designed capacity of 1,600 million cu ft of gas daily.

Last year the Nigerian Government, through its state oil company, reached a new shareholding arrangement with Shell and BP for the Shell BP LNG plant, but little further progress was made as discussions continued on the rival project involving Phillips, Agip of Italy, and Elf, the French oil company.

Both projects were included in the country's third national development plan, but the Nigerian Government, which is having to revise priorities in the light of falling oil revenues and balance of payments problems—appears to have persuaded the Phillips consortium to join forces with a single venture. This will result in considerable savings on the construction of roads and other facilities.

The new shareholding agreement will give Nigeria a 60 per cent stake through its state oil company, Shell and BP will each take a 10 per cent interest, with Phillips and Agip accounting for a further 15 per cent, and Elf taking 5 per cent.

Representatives of the companies recently completed a tour of possible locations and industry sources indicated that pre-qualification tenders could be sought within the next three months enabling construction to start early in 1978.

Initial gas throughput of the plant would be between 300 million and 600 million cu ft a day. Agreements for the sale of gas have not yet been signed but the partners are believed to have received preliminary confirmation of interest from a number of customers.

The project will eventually require a fleet of 14 to 16 LNG carriers each costing about \$150m. Competition for the contracts will be keen, Sweden has already expressed interest in building some of the ships and buying gas from the plant.

Peter Hill

City panel reprimands NatWest ex-employee

By Richard Allen

A 150 share dealing profit made by a National Westminster assistant bank manager has led to a public reprimand from the City Takeover Panel.

The panel has accused the former assistant manager, Mr J. R. Elliott, of insider dealing when he made a share purchase on April 13 this year.

The reprimand follows an inquiry which centred on a 50p share takeover bid by JWI, a Canadian company, for the British group, H. Johnson & Sons. The JWI offer was made public at 4 pm on April 13.

However, early in the afternoon a copy of the announcement was noticed by Mr Elliott, who worked at a major NatWest branch, which was involved in the negotiations.

He telephoned his stockbroker and, using the name of a friend who happened to be a partner of the same firm, asked for the price of Johnson's shares.

Although it was apparent from the response that the announcement had not been made public, Mr Elliott ordered 2,000 shares in the

name of the friend and these were purchased at a price of 34p a share.

The friend who was out of the country and had no knowledge of the transaction subsequently accepted the JWI offer and paid over the profit on the deal to Mr Elliott.

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According to the panel, Mr Elliott, as soon as he became aware of these investigations, informed his superior at the bank of his purchases and they immediately carried out an inquiry.

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Crown Agents report for MPs on Thursday

By Maurice Corina

The report by a departmental committee of inquiry, led by Judge Edmund Fyfe, into the circumstances which led to the Crown Agents for Overseas Administrations requesting financial assistance from the Government, will be placed before the House of Commons on Thursday.

At the same time, the Government is proposing to publish a version of a previously confidential report on the Agents' status functions and financial operations, prepared in 1972 by a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Matthew Stevenson.

In view of the sensitive nature of these two reports, which will shed light on how the Crown Agents organization became insolvent and at one

stage faced liabilities of up to £400m, the Government is expected to make a special statement to MPs and there may be a White Paper about the Crown Agents' future in the light of the Fyfe report's findings.

Yesterday there were indications that the Fyfe report will disclose names in charging the story of the Agents' financial disaster and commenting on the responsibilities of Whitehall departments and ministers.

The Crown Agents were bailed out by an £50m grant and a Royal Warrant in December 1974 and the following year there had to be an emergency Moneylenders Act covering the unincorporated Crown Agents, then exposed to £400m of risks.

A special realization account, which has helped in the rescue

of the historic business, is presently in deficit by £197m. There have been rumours that the firm will be sold to Milbank Technical Services, whose liabilities have been transferred to the Ministry of Defence.

In April 1976, the present Government published a White Paper on the Future of the Crown Agents, outlining its provisional ideas for creating a new structure, with accountability to Parliament. However, the proposals were made "subject to any modifications which may be desirable when the findings of the Fyfe committee become available".

A Government statement on Thursday will comment on the Fyfe findings and indicate its further ideas for reforms of the

organization and for dealing with government financial support beyond the original £50m grant. This will be intended to maintain the confidence of customers around the world.

More tricky is the question of providing an opportunity for anyone named in the Fyfe report to answer any allegations or comments. A judicial tribunal may be necessary since government departments, former ministers, the Bank of England and former Crown Agents and officers are concerned. Drafting the terms of reference can be no easy task.

The papers of a Tribunal under the 1921 Criminal Justice Act were used to inquire into particular aspects of the crash of the Vehicle and General Insurance Company.

Mr William Stern, former property group chief, was sued for nearly £1,500,000 by Keyser Ullmann, in the High Court yesterday.

The claim by Ullmann against Mr Stern, whose great company crashed in 1974 with the collapse of the property boom, arises out of a personal guarantee given on June 14, 1973, for cash due or owing by one of his companies, Magnum Hotel (Manchester) Ltd.

Mr Lionel Swift QC, for Ullmann, told Mr Justice Talbot that Mr Stern, who had been the claimant on the basis that it was unenforceable against him.

"We say that that is not right," counsel commented. The hearing continues today.

EEC steel orders up

Orders for steel products in September at European Community steelmakers totalled 7,249,000 metric tonnes, up 18.4 per cent from August but 2.2 per cent below September, 1976, according to figures from Eurostat, the Community Statistics Office.

Kuhn Loeb in American banking merger

Lehman Brothers Inc and Kuhn Loeb and Co, two old-line United States investment banking firms, announced in London yesterday that they had agreed in principle to a merger.

Ownership of the two firms will be simply a merger of two fine names, but as a marriage of two profitable firms that complement one another.

Under the merger, which is expected to be completed by December 15, Mr Peterson will be chairman and president of the combined firm.

Mr John Schiff will be honorary chairman of the board of the combined firm, and Mr David Schiff will be a member of the board.

Two new Eurosterling bond issues were announced yesterday, one for £10m by Fisons, the fertilizer, pharmaceutical and agrochemical group, and the other, for £25m, by the European Investment Bank.

The Fisons issue, the first in Eurosterling by a British industrial group, will be a 10-year note, the indicated coupon being 10 per cent. Proceeds will be put towards reducing short-term indebtedness.

The EIB issue is a 15-year stock with an indicated coupon of 9½ per cent. There will be a purchase fund operating on a quarterly basis for the first 10 years.

Financial Editor, page 19

How the markets moved

Rises

Broken Hill	10p to 44½p
Centreway	10p to 21½p
Dew G	10p to 44½p
Glenlivet Dist	15p to 46½p
Gordon & G	1p to 16p
Harmony	10p to 28½p
Lebanon	11p to 44½p

Falls

Alroy & Sm	13p to 23½p
Brady Inc	7p to 8½p
Change Wares	1p to 15p
Dryks J	4p to 21p
Heslar	5p to 10½p
Hunting Gibson	10p to 22½p
Metals Explor	2p to 13p

Equities drifted. Gold-edged securities lost early gains. Dollar premium 55.0 per cent (effective rate 37.85 per cent). Sterling closed at 1.8190, 5 points up. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.3.

Gold rose \$3.25 an ounce to \$161.625. SDR-E was 1.18780 on Friday while SDR-E was 0.633823. Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1497.5 (previous 1490.4).

Reports, pages 20, 21 and 22

The Times index: 19573-0.16

The FT index: 464.5-1.5

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.60	1.60
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr	65.75	62.75
Canada \$	2.06	2.01
Denmark Kr	11.45	11.06
Finland Mk	7.80	7.55
France Fr	9.04	8.72
Germany Dm	4.20	3.98
Greece Dr	78.00	72.00
Hong Kong \$	8.75	8.30
Italy L	1625.00	1570.00
Japan Yn	460.00	435.00
Netherlands Gld	1.54	1.52
Norway Kr	10.10	9.74
Portugal Esc	75.00	74.00
S Africa Rd	1.82	1.70
Spain Pes	156.50	150.50
Sweden Kr	8.90	8.64
Switzerland Fr	4.10	3.88
US \$	1.86	1.81
Yugoslavia Dnr	38.25	35.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only. Supply yesterday by Bank of England. International fund, different rates. Other foreign currency business.

Interim Statement

Brady Industries

Company Notices

Courts

Lloyds Bank

National Westminster Bank

On other pages

Business appointments

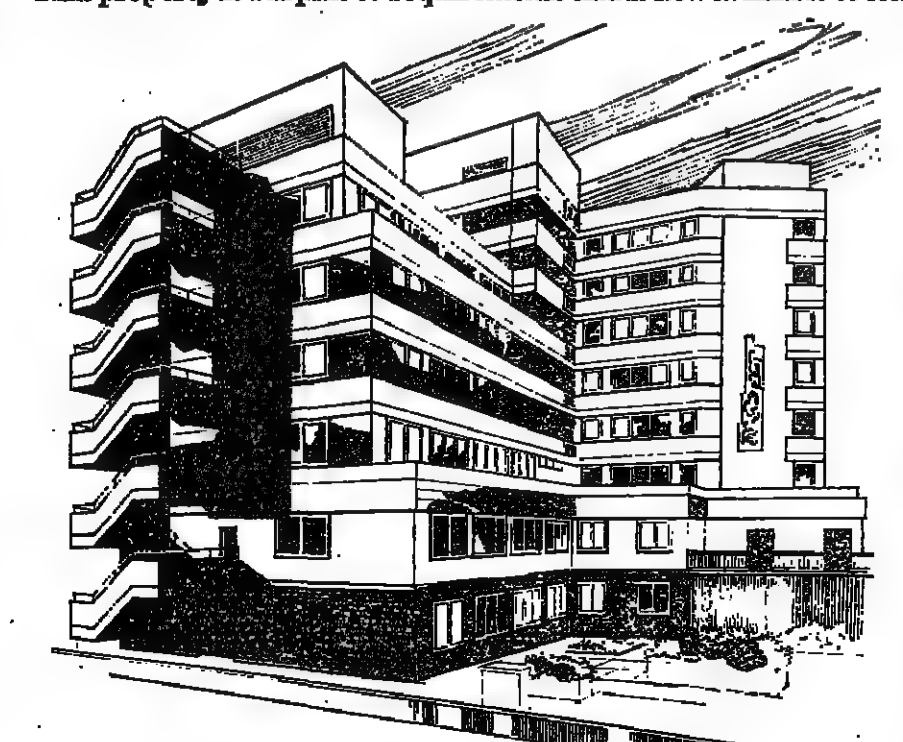
Appointments vacant

Wall Street

Bank Base Rates Table

By Order of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York

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Resistance by shopfloor undermines foundry aid

By Michael Webb

Mr. Seligman has been warned that the Government's £80m grant aid scheme to modernise the iron foundry industry is being undermined by shopfloor opposition to new methods of working in the required factories.

This opposition is being maintained in the face of yet more factory closures. Latest returns from the Council of the Iron Foundries Association (CIFA) show that 30 more have closed since the aid scheme was introduced in August, 1975, and recently doubled from 240m.

Mr. John Pearce, chairman of the CIFA and a member of the Foundries' little Neddy, said yesterday that he had personally told Mr. Callaghan there was an urgent need for closer cooperation between union leaders serving on the little Neddy and their members on the shop floor.

In reply, the Prime Minister had said management and unions were partly to blame because they were slow in implementing planning agreements with the Government.

Mr. Pearce, whose own concern, Birmid Qualcast, is one of the way through a £50m modernisation programme, comments on this new threat to a depressed industry in the current issue of his works newspaper *Pivot*.

"For some reason the industrial strategy does not seem to have been understood at factory floor level. In order to get the most out of investment, changes had to be made. No one likes change, and when it came to making them in manning and flexibility, operators of new plant and equipment—many who had previously agreed to full consultation—refused to work the new plant."

Appealing for more cooperation from workers, Mr. Pearce went on: "It cannot be too clearly understood how very serious is the present fall in demand for iron castings."

Transport and distribution misuse costing exporters £1,000m a year

By Michael Bailey

Export inefficiencies and delays are costing British industry £1,000m a year compared with France, Germany, and Holland, a study by the National Economic Development Office reveals.

It urges a big national effort by governments and industry to upgrade the transport and distribution sector from its present lowly place in board and management thinking to one in line with the fact that it absorbs 8 to 12 per cent of the delivered cost of manufactured goods abroad.

Introducing its report at a London press conference yesterday, Lord Hayter, the little Neddy chairman, declared that many United Kingdom companies did not even know who looked after their transport functions, and Britain's manu-

facturing and transport industries were hardly on speaking terms.

The £1,000m figure is made up of £500m direct costs arising from inefficient and costly distribution of British exports, and a further £500m from wasted assets, manpower, and lost sales.

These costs, which are severely damaging industry, arise not from inefficiencies in Britain's transport system which is at least as good as other countries, but from industry's failure to use it efficiently. Mr. Jim Fetherston, chairman of the study group and head of one of the country's biggest freight forwarders, declared yesterday.

Exports to Europe had risen by 400 per cent since the Export to Europe conference in 1966 and road traffic through Dover

by more than 1,400 per cent, he said. While completely new patterns of transport and distribution were now available, many companies had failed to capitalise on them.

The man taking the decisions even in major United Kingdom concerns was often one with virtually no status, little professional training, and few career prospects. Nor was industry prepared to let its senior people participate in the various national bodies concerned with transport and distribution.

The report—*Trading with Europe: Through Transport and the Total Export Concept*—urges a major drive by government, industry, and trade associations to raise the importance and equality of distribution management in British industry.

Brussels talks on textile pact no nearer accord

From Michael Horsby
Brussels Nov 28

The European Commission today moved into the final phase of its negotiations with more than 30 textile exporters in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

With the deadline for conclusion of the negotiations only two days off, the Community has still to reach agreement with four of the biggest textile suppliers, Hongkong, India, South Korea and Brazil.

Although the European Commission is still publicly committed to completing the negotiations by November 30, it is clear that the most to be hoped for is an understanding with the major suppliers, and even that looks increasingly difficult.

The Commission's intention is to hold imports of low-cost next year to a level of about 1.1 million tonnes.

This implies an average annual growth rate of about 6 per cent against rates of up to 22 per cent in recent years. But much lower growth rates are being sought for sensitive

products.

It was hoped that by November 30 some 900,000 tonnes of textile imports would be covered by quota arrangements under bilaterally-negotiated "reasonable departures" from the provisions of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Renewal of the MFA for another four years was agreed in principle earlier this year. Whether the EEC will feel able to sign the protocol renewing the MFA will depend on the current negotiations, whose outcome will be examined by foreign ministers at their meeting in Brussels on December 19 and 20.

If the negotiations break down or the results are considered inadequate they could decide to take unilateral measures to curb textile imports from January 1, even though there are fears that this could provoke a general trade war. Contingency plans for unilateral action have already been drawn up.

Business letters, page 15

'Last chance' warning to Redpath yard

By Ronald Fair

A warning that the oil platform yard of Redpath Dorman Long (North Sea) at Methil in Fife had been given a last chance to prove itself was sounded yesterday during a visit by Dr. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State at the Department of Energy.

Dr. Mabon made it clear that the Government and the oil industry would be watching the performance of the yard closely. The expectation was that DRL would be in business and competing in an international market.

Mr. David Waterstone, chairman of DRL added that no one was complacent about the future. It was their second chance, he said.

The yard at Methil was put on a care and maintenance basis earlier this year through lack of orders. Yesterday work began on RDL's share of the contract to build the basic structure for the Texaco Tertiary platform, which is to be delivered to Union d'Entreprise Industrielle (UEI) of Cherbourg for completion. The contract is worth £10m to the yard, and will give work for one year to 450 men.

The company said new working agreements at the yard had been reached, which would largely eliminate the sort of demarcation dispute which had in the past been a problem.

"We are starting off again with an intent from everyone employed here to deliver the goods," a company official said. Texaco was relying heavily on the British and French companies completing their parts on the contract by May 1, 1979.

Mr. Waterstone said inadequate market development and the effects of some of the failures at Methil had led to the works being put in mothball and many of the men declared redundant.

Axle dispute threatens British truck output

A four-month dispute at Eaton Axles, Aycliffe, co. Durham, is preventing British commercial vehicle manufacturers from cashing in on the long-awaited improvement in truck demand which is now under way.

Eaton is part of the American-owned Eaton Corporation and is this country's leading heavy axle manufacturer. So serious is the threat to truck production that some of Eaton's biggest customers are switching to other suppliers, including Rockwell (also American owned) and Gussner & Nettelfelds and Gussner & Nettelfelds.

To keep these losses to a minimum Eaton is believed to be importing limited supplies of axles from its own factories in Spain and America.

8 pc of world shipping tonnage still idle

Idle world shipping rose for the sixth successive month to reach 48 million tons or eight per cent of the world merchant fleet at end-October, the General Council of British Shipping said today.

This figure compares with a high point of 55 million tons in March last year, and a low point since of 32 million tons in April this year. It comprises 342 tankers and 309 dry cargo ships. The United Kingdom figure fell slightly from 2,775,000 to 2,757,000 tons representing 5 per cent of Britain's merchant fleet. A year ago more than 3 million tons of United Kingdom shipping was laid up.

Building exports record

Record exports of building materials and components were forecast by Mr. Ernest Armstrong, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, when he visited British exhibitors at the 11th International Building Exhibition in Paris yesterday. He said that £485m worth of exports had been recorded during the first half of this year, against total exports of £801m last year and £553m in 1975.

Tokyo imports offer

Japan is expected to tell the European Community this week that it is prepared to cut import duty on goods such as whisky, brandy, chocolate and biscuits to help redress the balance of trade, government sources said yesterday. Officials from Japan and the EEC will meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday to discuss ways of reducing the EEC's deficit.

Leyland strikers back

Production at Leyland's Longbridge plant returned to normal yesterday after 70 vehicle testers had walked out last week demanding reinstatement of a night shift worker sacked for punching a worker he thought was having an affair with his wife. The man was back on unpaid suspension while the management reviewed his case. The dispute cost more than £1.5m in lost production.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EEC's 'bullying tactics' over textiles show total disregard for Hongkong

From the Bishop of Hongkong and Macao

Sir, I think people in the United Kingdom and in Europe should know of the strong feelings in Hongkong at the apparently bullying tactics of the EEC negotiators on textile quotas. Among many expressions of opinion the Hongkong Christian Industrial Committee has sent an open letter to governments and churches in Europe which makes the following points:

(i) The unilateral decision of EEC representatives to break off negotiations shows a total disregard for this territory where 50 per cent of all industrial workers are in the textile industry.

(ii) The countries of the EEC were able to benefit for centuries from free trade which, as colonial powers, they were able to impose on others. Now, when other countries are ready to share in free trade, the EEC wants to change the rules.

(iii) The EEC intends to cut

quotas held by Hongkong and redistribute them to less developed countries. We reject the EEC's way of doing charity at our expense.

(iv) EEC representatives have so far refused to discuss proposals put forward by Hongkong and rejected concessions offered.

"We call upon the Government of the United Kingdom to assume its special responsibility for the 4.5 million people of Hongkong, and not give in to the unilateral pressure of protectionist interests."

I write on behalf of the large numbers of workers and their families whose livelihood is threatened.

It would be a great pity if the EEC, from which we have had great hopes, should turn out to be another form of old-fashioned colonialism.

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT BAKER,
Bishop of Hongkong and Macao,
Bishop's House,
Hongkong,
November 22.

Commercial potential of canals

From Commander E. Mack, R.V.

Sir, I feel that there are many people who would support the Chairman of the National Waterways Transport Association (November 22) in his view that waterways are an invaluable arm of our transport system. It is the most efficient and economical (about one fifth of the fuel per tonne/mile compared with road transport) method.

As a result of certain pressures, our huge investment in motorways and the way we allow heavy lorries to travel without paying their full road provision and maintenance costs (see the Government's Consultation Document on Transport Policy), not to mention environmental costs, we continue to use road transport as much as we can.

Perhaps we should learn from our EEC partners on the Continent, where there is a huge and expanding canal system. It is surely to this that we should be connected so that our goods can be loaded and unloaded as near to our factories as possible and the proper use made of our big canals and estuaries where 300 tonne (and larger) barges can operate. There is much to be said for this sized traffic up the Trent to Nottingham, to Leeds and South Yorkshire, up the Severn, the Thames, the Weaver and others.

The Government allow funds to enlarge the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation, 750 tonne barges will be able to reach Mexborough (over 10 miles from Sheffield).

Efficient distribution must result in lower charges for our imports and exports and hence more trade and employment.

Yours faithfully,
E. MACK,
Osleston House,
Dalbury Lees,
Derby DE6 5BN,
November 24.

The best links between university and industry

From Dr A. E. B. Presland

Sir, Mr McAfee's letter today (November 23) overlooks perhaps the single most important factor governing university/industry relations. The behaviour of academic staff can be explained as a perfectly rational response to the universities' reward system.

On appointment (at ever younger ages, as has already been said) the main criterion is proved or potential research capability. Candidates from industry, especially those from the manufacturing areas, are at a considerable disadvantage here.

For the first three years after appointment, the new lecturer is on probation and he quickly learns that security of tenure is dependent upon his ability to demonstrate further his prowess at research. As anyone who has tried both will know, however, it is usually much quicker to achieve publishable results in purely academic work than in industrial research, if only because the latter involves a number of inevitable delays arising from the fact that the research is not totally within the control of the lecturer concerned. There is, therefore, a strong incentive to put off starting industrially related research until after probation has been safely passed. By now, however, attitudes will have hardened, and our ambitious lecturer will have begun to realize that industrially oriented research carries no additional benefit for the next stage either (senior lecturer/researcher) nor even for that final, crucial reward, the professorial chair.

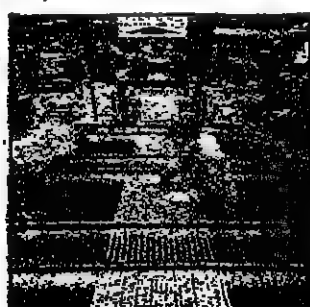
Engineering designers

From the Chief Officer, the Technician Education Council

Sir, Those of your readers who have been following the recent correspondence about engineering design may be interested to know that the Technician Education Council is setting up a working party to study the educational needs of engineering designers at technician level. This committee will include members drawn from the Design Council, the professional institutions in engineering and the engineering employers, as well as TEC itself. Its work may well lead to the development of a TEC higher award in engineering design.

Yours faithfully,
F. G. HANROTT,
Chief Officer,
Technician Education Council,
76 Portland Place,
London W1N 4AA,
November 23.

A good belting in the desert helps us grow even more



Above: Part of the manufacturing process of steel-reinforced conveyor belting.

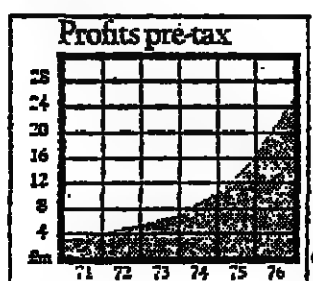
Right: Heavy-duty BTR belting at a copper mine in the Arizona desert.



Heavy-duty BTR belting can stand up successfully to the wear from thousands of tons a day of abrasive ore and the temperature extremes of the desert. Worldwide sales of belting like this have added to BTR's growth during the past eight years.

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SERVICE PARTS DISTRIBUTION



INDUSTRIAL AND OFF-HIGHWAY COMPONENTS



PASSENGER CAR COMPONENTS

SALES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

1967	1977
IN MILLIONS	IN MILLIONS
\$272	\$967...

... from New products and increased marketing services

1967	1977
\$126	\$385...

... from Expanded coverage with more regional warehouses and more products

1967	1977
\$38	\$253...

... Growth area of the Company—more products and new marketing capabilities

1967	1977
\$116	\$189...

... from Serving the areas which meet our financial standards

\$552 \$1,794

TOTAL SALES MORE THAN TRIPLED IN THE TEN YEAR PERIOD

Financial Performance

Year ended August 31st	1977	1976	percentage change
Our net income after tax amounted to	\$107,800,000	\$88,200,000	+21%
We made on each dollar of sales	6c	6c	
Received from customers for products and services	\$1,790,000,000	\$1,440,000,000	+24%

How dividends and reinvestment have been good for shareholders.

	1967	1977
Dow-Jones Industrial stock price average at August 31st ...	\$01.29	\$61.49
Dana stock price August 31st ...	\$11.46	\$23.00
Dana dividend - Annualized year-end rate	\$5.53	\$11.12
Past Ten Years Dow Average Down 5%		
Dana was up over 100% in the Ten years and so was its dividend!		

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Implications of the Hattersley review

Mr Hattersley's review of competition policy which is to be conducted by senior civil servants and economists with a brief to produce a first report by the spring could herald a far more active interventionist agency than exists at the moment. A combination of the present Prices and Monopolies and Mergers Commissions, which is envisaged, possibly including the Office of Fair Trading would create a body with wide powers to influence the structure and performance of industry and commerce.

The implications for the financial community are profound. The review has its background both in the recent growth of conglomerate mergers—bids by Lorrho, Trafalgar House and S. Pearson spring to mind. Moreover, academic research which would suggest that even the promoters of mergers were dissatisfied with the results and up to 50 per cent of merged companies would have been more profitable on their own.

Unless there have been clear monopoly implications, most mergers have until now been decided in the market place. The review group will consider whether this should change. A central theme for discussion will be whether the current criteria for allowing a merger through, that it does not damage the national interest, should be replaced by the tougher sanction that it should be of benefit. If that were to happen, the role of the shareholder would be yet further diminished.

The strength of the share price of a company, theoretically at least, is the ultimate check to foolish bids and unpopular mergers. Practically, the test for accepting an offer is always whether income (and to a lesser extent capital growth) would be greater by agreeing to the bid than by staying with the victim. Judgment is open to criticism, but a change in the system threatens one of the few real remaining powers of shareholders.

It may well be, however, that the concentration of ownership of British industry, which is greater than our competitors, has inhibited growth.

But the conditions have opened the way for a major interventionist agency which is bound to act closely with the National Enterprise Board and could have immense powers to affect the profitability of companies and could even order conglomerates to disinvest. Making an investment would become much more hazardous.

The recent reference of the Smith/Bigwood merger to the Monopolies Commission shows from another angle that there is less than satisfaction within official quarters that the financial community is the best judge even of its own affairs. The temptation for a new agency to involve itself more in the City would be strong.

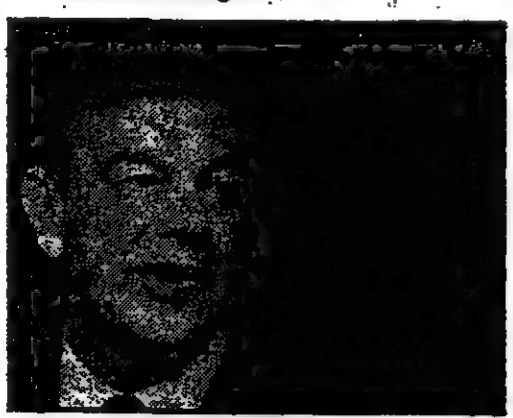
Any move that threatens the markets' role must be worrying to the City. As the Tate

& Lyle/Manbré merger last year showed that merger and monopoly policy could be subservient to political expediency, the worries over the new review will be that much greater.

Fisons Funding in the Euromarket

Fisons yesterday became the first British industrial group to announce that it is raising funds in the Eurosterling market. It is not going to be the last: the attractions of tapping this new source of funds are considerable.

First, of course, there is the worthwhile saving in debt servicing thanks to the lower cost of external sterling. Second, the Euro-market presents the borrower with lenders happy to commit funds on a medium term basis—a facility that may well be far more attractive to many companies than the traditional 20 year plus loan stock market in the United Kingdom.



Mr George Burton, chairman of Fisons.

Thirdly, the Euromarket tends to be far less demanding of a company in terms of covenants, the "negative pledge" (protecting the lender vis-à-vis other creditors) often being the only real demand on a company of reasonable status.

Whether or not any British companies are contemplating using the market to finance large-scale overseas investment remains to be seen. It may well be too early to contemplate issues bigger than the proposed £25m issue by the European Investment Bank (also announced yesterday), though there was some speculation in the market yesterday that the size of this issue could be increased if the demand was there.

Certainly, the latest rise in domestic interest rates looks to have done nothing to upset the market. Eurosterling rates easing slightly yesterday and the ECSC issue tending firmer.

RTZ's uranium maze

Judgment on an appeal by seven directors and senior executives of Rio Tinto-Zinc against being forced to give evidence before an American court will be handed down by the Law Lords on Thursday.

The judgment will be one facet of a complex series of litigation and investigation into the marketing of uranium in the decade. To certain extent it turns on the most spectacular shorting operation in the history of commodities—Westinghouse Electric Corporation went short 65 million pounds of uranium it had contracted to supply at an average price of \$9.51 a pound.

The Law Lords ruling will initially have an impact in a multi-party action which is being heard in Virginia and in which Westinghouse, the world's largest manufacturer of nuclear reactors is being sued by several public utility (power) companies over failure to meet uranium delivery contracts.

However, the ramifications have much wider implications. If RTZ executives, including the chairman Sir Mark Turner, are forced to testify on the existence and activities of a uranium producers' cartel, of which RTZ is alleged to have been a member, the evidence taken in the Virginia Court hearing could be used against RTZ and six subsidiary companies which are being sued by Westinghouse in another action in Illinois. Potential damages being sought by

Westinghouse in this action could be as high as \$6,000m.

But there is also a United States Grand Jury investigating the uranium industry for allegedly breaching United States anti-trust legislation, while recently the Tennessee Valley Authority, which is one of the utilities now suing Westinghouse, has filed its own action against 13 uranium producers, including RTZ.

Whatever the decision of the Law Lords, the Westinghouse saga still has far to run. RTZ faces the Illinois action (and now the TVA action as well) although it denies the jurisdiction of the Court except in relation to two subsidiaries and totally denies liability. The last annual report stated that it was not considered any loss would result from the proceedings and that no provisions had been made in the accounts.

If the Law Lords rule against the RTZ the Government, which has come under pressure from the Australian, Canadian and French governments, may try to forbid RTZ personnel from giving evidence to a United States court. The Australians and Canadians have passed laws preventing their uranium producing companies from handing over any information and in the House of Lords hearing the Attorney General, Mr Sam Silkin, has accused the United States of a "serious excess of jurisdiction" in attempting to obtain evidence from foreign nationals.

Russian cars head for a mini revolution

If Russia does not claim to have invented the motor car, it is now making up for lost time. Production this year will be approaching 1.4 million units, or four times as many as in 1970, and further expansion, though admittedly not at the same rate, is envisaged in the next Five-Year Plan which begins in 1981.

Nearly half the output comes from the giant Togliatti plant on the Volga river which makes the Lada, a Russian version of the Fiat 124. It is probably the

Following yesterday's article which examined the problems confronting American car makers, we look today at the development of the industry in Russia

biggest integrated car production complex in the world, making practically everything apart from tyres, glass, some electronics and a few mechanical components.

Togliatti lies 500 miles east of Moscow and the arrival of the car industry has created a new city of 200,000 people on barren swamp land as flat as far as the eye can see. The workers, recruited from all over the Soviet Union, earn on average 170 roubles (£127 a month, not a princely sum

by western standards—but more than they could have dreamed of only a few years ago.

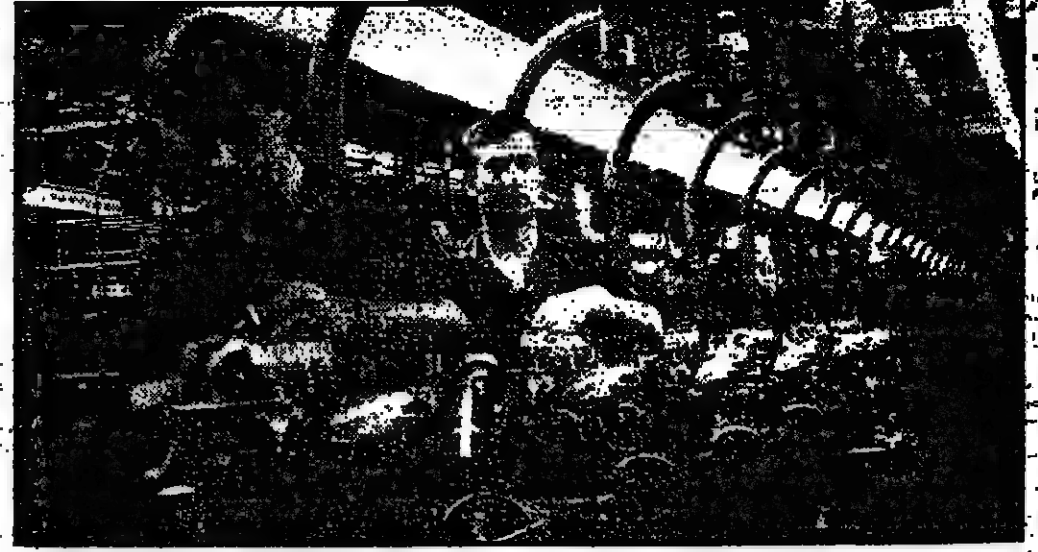
Many live in flats provided by the company in drab 12-storey tower blocks a short bus ride from the factory. The single workers sleep two to a tiny room, share a cooker, and fridge with two colleagues, but pay only seven roubles (£5.50) a month in rent. Their life is very largely, their work.

The factory itself looks superficially like any other—after all, the basic means of putting a car together has not changed since Henry Ford's concept of the assembly line (a Russian trait) and impresses by sheer size. The main assembly line, with three tracks and a fourth shortly to be added, is a mile-long and ends in a car to take you round it.

The age of mass motoring has come late in Russia, and even now there are barely five million cars on the roads compared with 14 million in Britain and more than 100 million in the United States.

Khrushchev called the car a "food-smelling armchair on wheels" and gave it little encouragement and the Moskvich factory, set up in 1930, took 37 years to make its first million vehicles.

But two years after Khrushchev's fall from power in 1964, an agreement was struck with Fiat to build the 124 model under licence and the Italians also provided the technical know-how for the establishment of the factory. It officially opened in 1970 and 28,500 cars were made in the first year. Now, a new Lada comes off the line every 20 seconds and total output this year will be 680,000.



The Lada engine assembly line at the Togliatti plant.

Not only is the car of Western design—though the Russians have provided their own overhead camshaft engine and given it thicker metal and a higher ground clearance—but much of the machinery that builds it has come from Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and the United States. It is to help pay for this equipment that the Lada is sold in the West—at obviously unrealistic prices.

But having exploited Fiat's expertise, the Russians seem determined from now on to go their own way. The first indication of this is the Niva, a small four-wheel drive hatchback which has recently gone into production at Togliatti. Designed particularly for off-road motoring, and only a fifth of the national road network is paved, it does use some Lada components but is basically a Russian creation.

Looking further ahead, the next five-year plan embraces the production of front-wheel drive "superminis" on the lines of the Ford Fiesta and Fiat 127. With a tailgate and one litre engine, it promises to be the most advanced car ever built in the Soviet Union. A design team is busy at work so that the car can be launched—probably at Togliatti—early in the 1980s.

Meanwhile it is worth pointing out that the Lada is, in

effect, an 11-year-old model and, even so, much more sophisticated than the other Soviet volume cars, the Moskvich and the Zaporozhets. The Moskvich, made on the outskirts of the Russian capital, enjoyed a brief boom in Britain up to a couple of years ago but was withdrawn by the importer, Sauria Motors, as not being up to standard.

But Sarra has decided to keep the concession open and it seems that a more modern Moskvich may be on the horizon. If a film shown to visitors to the Moskvich plant is any guide, the future model could look rather like the Saab 99—

The future of the Zaporozhets, named after the town in the Ukraine where it is built, is uncertain. This is a car that has never been sold in Britain though a few are exported to Italy, Greece and Austria. The Soviet industry expects to export 350,000 cars this year, about a quarter of the total. (Incidentally, Russia must be one of the few countries in the world that does not import cars.) The Eastern block countries are the main customers but the Lada enjoys steady sales in Britain—nearly 13,000 this year in Finland, West Germany, Belgium and Holland.

Pricing policy is interesting, to say the least. On the Russian market the Lada costs between 5,500 and 7,500 roubles (£4,000 to £5,500), or the equivalent of 2½ to 3½ years' earnings of the

average Togliatti worker. No wonder that only 4,000 of the 100,000 workforce own a car and there is no staff discount or credit scheme. Also, if a Russian wants a new car he has to wait 18 months to two years for it.

But if the car is sold for western currency, entirely different rules apply. A British correspondent based in Moscow has just bought a new Lada: he got it more or less immediately and paid only a quarter of the "Russian" price. In Britain, the Lada range is several hundred pounds cheaper than comparable West European or Japanese cars. The clear implication is that the Russian motorist is being asked to subsidise the purchase of much needed pounds and marks.

Despite the tremendous expansion of the last few years, it is as well to get the Russian car industry in perspective. It is not another Japan, nor is it likely to be for some years. For one thing, Russia does not have the roads and the service back-up to sustain a huge car population. But the example of Togliatti shows that events move quickly when officialdom decrees, and the prospect of western markets being flooded by Soviet-produced vehicles at knock-down prices cannot be taken lightly.

Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

Agents caught in the web of an EEC directive

Clive Schmittthoff

remunerated by commission, is, economically speaking, comparable with the employee, who normally is remunerated by way of salary.

If the commission achieves some degree of harmonisation on these key issues, much will have been accomplished. Above all, the agency should be able to describe a model contract—the agency situation in the various trades is too different for that.

The three topics which a new directive on agency should cover require further explanation:

1. The definition of "commercial agent" should be restricted to a self-employed intermediary who has continuing authority to negotiate and/or conclude contracts for the sale of manufactured goods in the name and for the account of the principal. That definition should be subject to two qualifications: first, member states should be at liberty also to impose a financial limit, namely to provide that the protection of the directive shall apply only to agents whose annual turnover does not exceed a certain amount, say, £50,000.

Secondly, member states should be entitled to extend the protection of the directive to commercial agents other than those engaged in the sale of manufactured goods. That would enable France to extend the protection of the directive to *voyageurs, représentants, placeurs* who are *seuls détenteurs bénéficiaires du statut*

legal as they are protected by the *code de travail*, and it would enable Germany to extend the protection to *Handelsvertreter* provided by the German Law of 1953.

Such an arrangement would take account of the different economic situation in the member states. In any event, part-time agents, such as housewives selling for a mail order house, should be excluded from the protection of the directive.

2. On principle, agents failing under the directive should be in the insolventy of the principal, be treated as if they were employees. That is, indeed, provided by article 22 of the present draft directive. It is a sound principle, but it is not easy to carry out in practice.

In the United Kingdom, under the Employment Protection Act 1975, the contractual claim of employees is for a sum not exceeding £800 and accrued during four months before the receiving order. The £800 limit appears to be appropriate for agents of agent's commission, but it may be questionable whether the time limit of four months is appropriate.

Moreover, in certain circumstances an employer can recover his claim from a government department which then takes the place of the employer, but a claim of an agent against the government department for arrears of commission would be ruled out completely.

Difficulties arise also with respect to the employee's claim for holiday remuneration, time off for study, and other preferential claims of the

employee to which the agent will never be entitled.

It follows that it is impossible to equate the claim of the agent for preferential treatment of arrears of commission with the employee's claim. The new draft directive should allow the member states considerable discretion to adapt the principle to the provisions of their own national law.

3. The harmonisation of the law relating to goodwill indemnity after termination of the contract of agency is the most difficult but also the most important problem. Here, it would be desirable to provide two rules.

First, there should be no statutory claim for goodwill indemnity if the contract was for a definite time, unless it was continued after its expiration. Secondly, where the contract is for an indefinite time or is continued after expiration, a statutory claim for goodwill indemnity should arise, provided that the agent has been active for the principal for a certain time, for example, for two years.

The amount of the statutory claim should be fixed by the ordinary courts if the parties cannot agree; and the courts when fixing the amount should take into consideration the length of service of the agent, the value of the goods which the principal has acquired as the result of the agent's activities, the agent's personal savings, from the agency and other relevant circumstances.

The author is Visiting Professor of International Business Law at the City University and the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Business Diary: Written in water? • Animal crackers

Can corruption be cured by self-censoring ordinances and international agreements or will the corrupt simply ignore these and go about their seamy business as before?

This question will be at the heart of the debate being held today in Paris by the governing council of the 54-nation International Chamber of Commerce—the business version of the United Nations.

The council will have before it the second draft of a report prepared by an international commission of eminent men which proposes tougher government measures to fight bribery, a voluntary code of conduct for business which would ban bribes and kickbacks, and the setting up of an international panel to police the code.

This second draft is a much watered down version of the original which was rewritten after criticism from the French, the West Germans and the Belgians.

Several commission members—particularly its chairman Lord Shawcross, a former British attorney general, Jean Rey, the Belgian who presided over the European Economic Community from 1967 to 1970, and Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister—have been consistently strong advocates of tough measures.

So have Zeki Mustafa, former attorney general of the Sudan who was reported to be extremely angry at the way in which the power of the policing panel were severely curtailed in the second draft, and the Iranian banker Ghasem Kheradjoor.

Less easy to discern is the attitude of the commission and within the national com-

mittees of the ICC has been rife with the opposition. One important figure thought to be less than wholly enthusiastic is commission member 76-year-old Jacques Georges-Picard, a former president of the *Compagnie Financière de Suez* and of the *Union Parisienne*—the old *uez* Canal Company.

The French view seems to be that you cannot cure corruption with pieces of paper, and the council will have before it the second draft of a report prepared by an international commission of eminent men which proposes tougher government measures to fight bribery, a voluntary code of conduct for business which would ban bribes and kickbacks, and the setting up of an international panel to police the code.

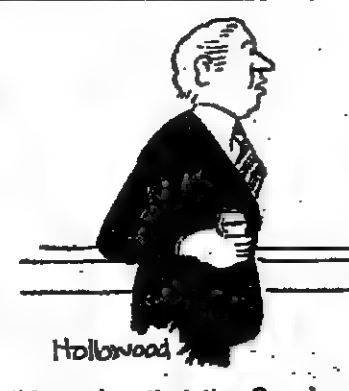
How will today's vote go? The ICC council will not accept the code but will remit the question of the policing panel for further consideration, a compromise that will not please Shawcross, Yamani, Mustafa, and Kheradjoor.

The City is used to coping with bulls and bears, but elephants and donkeys are something else.

They and many assorted animals and birds arrive at Heathrow Airport's animal quarantine station, run by the City Corporation for greater London and, in practice, for the rest of the country.

The new station, opened in February, has all the facilities needed to deal with a market that is increasingly important, not least since the menace of rabies threatens British shores. In its first six months of operation, however, the station has lost £117,000, not at all what the money-conscious corporation had in mind.

The Port and City of London Health Committee, chaired by Brigadier John Packard, have



Hollowood

"Learning that the Swedes and Germans pay more tax than we do has been a terrible blow to my righteous indignation."

even considered closing the station but decided the station's national importance and the corporation's own statutory duties came first.

The brigadier wants to maintain the station because of his knowledge of the horrors of rabies gained during military service in India.

He is urging to get the government to contribute towards running costs and meanwhile has now asked the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for permission to reduce the charge for birds and beasts staying at their "hotel".

At present the minimum charge for an elephant is £50 for 24 hours. It is proposed to introduce a six-hour stay for £15, which could produce more custom, and the same criterion will apply to others. A dealer, for instance, could stay for £5, instead of £24 as before, while a medium-sized dog or a large

cat would cost £240 instead of £9.50.

Today in London, lighting engineers will be discussing, among other things, how to measure laser power. Seventy years or so ago, the problem concerned the measurement of light emitted by gas mantles.

Leading light at the conference, entitled *The International Lighting Scene*, is the National Illumination Committee, which arranged it to review research at the half-way point between the forums held every four years by the Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (CIE).

The CIE came into being in 1913, was extinguished briefly during the 1914-18 War and held its first full session in 1924. Here, according to its immediate past president, Walter Stevens, occurred probably the most important single achievement—the establishment of a curve of spectral luminous

efficiency. "In effect this defines an average human eye and is the international basis for the measurement of light, without which there would be chaos and confusion."

Now, the priority is to find some adequate way to describe the quality of light as opposed to its mere quantity. Since the past decade, the subject has become increasingly important, as people have realized the need to make more use of less light—by improving its direction, for instance.

The conference, which will be as non-technical as possible will hear reports on a variety of lighting matters, including applications for stage and studio, for roads, down mines, up in the air and for sports.

Regarding the latter, lighting engineers are intrigued by the suggestion of Kerr Packard, the Australian sports impresario, that he might televise floodlit cricket.

As the experts point out the technical problems are great—what with getting the light right for the television camera while ensuring that the batsmen can see the ball.

They are now wondering if he knows something they don't.

Following the *International Labour Organization (ILO)*, the Chinese have also decided to pull out from this United Nations agency, albeit "temporarily". This defection is not likely to worry the ILO as much as that of the Americans, for Stevens, occurring in 1971, the Chinese have not paid any subscriptions and owe the ILO \$9.8m (about £5.4m).

Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela

8 1/2% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Fiscal Agency Agreement dated 1st December 1972 providing for the above Debentures, \$350,000 principal amount of said Debentures bearing the following serial numbers have been selected for redemption on December 15, 1977, through operation of the Sinking Fund, at the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest thereon to said date:

DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH												
1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012
1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025
1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038
1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051
1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064
1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077
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St. Moritz
LA STAMPA
L'ESPRESSO
DIE WELT

Europa

Why London dominates the art markets

When one thinks of the European art market, one's first thought is of London, such is London's dominance in the world of art sales. This preeminence is above all due to the London auctioneers Sotheby's and Christie's.

These two alone had a turnover of some DM750m (£187.5m) in 1976-77, more than total sales in auctions, art fairs and galleries in West Germany.

We should not, however, forget that these figures for Sotheby's and Christie's also include substantial sums earned by both abroad, particularly Sotheby's. From Sotheby's £122m we have to subtract £44.3m turnover in the United States. More than one fifth of the remaining £77.7m came from sales in Europe.

Major jewelry sales, for instance, are held in Geneva, because of the liberal import-export rules and for tax reasons. On November 10 Christie's disposed of over 24m Swiss francs worth (£6m) of jewelry at four sales in Geneva.

Even after these deductions, London

is still Europe's premier art market. This was not always the case. It was only after the Second World War that London topped Paris from first place. Only two years ago Paris was hoping to regain the leading position. The reason was the introduction of a 10 per cent buyer's commission at Sotheby's and Christie's in 1975. Until then only the seller had had to pay a 10 per cent fee.

The low costs were an important factor in London's leading role in the European art market, but after only half the season Sotheby's Melian, the influential art critic of the *International Herald Tribune*, declared that Paris's hopes were not being realized. This is because London rates, even after the introduction of the buyer's commission, are still reasonable.

Paris has, however, firmly established its second position: the gallery Hotel Drouot showed a turnover of 501m francs (£56.8m) last season, almost as much as the second largest London firm, Christie's. (Its move to the more central rooms in the Gare d'Orsay was

an important contributory factor.) Paris is the main centre for seventeenth and eighteenth-century furniture.

West Germany's art market is decentralized, in contrast with England and France, where the art markets are localized in the capitals, London and Paris (as they were centred on Berlin in the days of the Third Reich). There is, however, a degree of concentration in Munich, but almost every major West German city has a large auctioneer, and there are some 20 of international reputation in the whole country.

While London and Paris handles all forms of art works, most West German firms are highly specialized, and these can achieve prices in their special fields that are quite comparable to those reached by the competition in London and Paris.

The Cologne firm, Lempertz, for example, specializes in art of the Middle Ages, and the highest price for a Madonna of this period (DM 330,000) was recorded in their salerooms. Hauswedell and Nolte in Hamburg is famous for old books and graphic works; Neu-

meister in Munich is known for nineteenth-century paintings, and Stargardt has a reputation for autographs that extends beyond West Germany. Ruel in Munich specializes in furniture, and Nagel in Stuttgart has built up a name for carpets.

Turnover on the West German art market is of the order of DM 500m a year, which puts it in third place in Europe behind France and the United Kingdom. Estimates of turnover in the art world are likely to be lower than the true figures because not all transactions are shown on the books.

It is for this reason particularly difficult to assess the Italian art market with any degree of confidence, although it is concentrated in the two centres Milan and Florence. It has suffered visibly from the 35 per cent VAT, and in order to evade this burden transactions must go through the "grey" market or go abroad, with the result that the official home market is declining steadily.

Armin Loewe



Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

Lloyds Bank Limited has increased its Base Rate from 6% to 7% with effect from Tuesday 29th November 1977.

The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts and Savings Bank accounts is increased from 3% to 3½% p.a.

The change in Base Rate and Deposit account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of

Lloyds Bank International Limited
The National Bank of New Zealand Limited
and by
Lewis's Bank Limited



Mr Peter Williams, managing director of Amdahl (UK), with Mr Bill Brant, BOC Datasolve's London Central Datacentre manager (seated), after the installation at Sunbury.

Datasolve installs first Amdahl in Britain

BOC Datasolve has installed the first Amdahl computer to be delivered to the United Kingdom at its Sunbury data centre. Amdahl Corporation, California-based, has concentrated on high-performance large computer systems which use IBM software.

The Sunbury system, a V/5 model, is the first Amdahl to be delivered in Europe, and is the 81st such installation worldwide. It will be used for BOC Datasolve bureau customers and as a test centre for the V/5 in Europe.

Mr Peter V. Williams, a for-

Computer news

mer IBM executive, has been appointed managing director of Amdahl (UK). Howslow, Huddersfield, and general manager of the company's northern European operations.

In his 17 years with IBM United Kingdom, Mr Williams held positions which included

largesystems marketing manager, director of industry systems, and product management

manager responsible for the introduction of new products.

Sanders/IBM system

First outcome of the product development agreement signed between IBM and Sanders Associates last January is a new interactive computer graphics system.

Known as the IBM 3250 graphics display system, it will enable graphs, plots, charts and drawings to be displayed and modified on a screen for design, testing and analysis work.

Developed by Sanders, the system will also be manufactured by the Nashua, New Hampshire company, under the direction of IBM United Kingdom laboratories at Hursley, Hampshire, and the IBM plant at Raleigh, North Carolina. The Hursley laboratories are responsible for the architecture of the system design; engineering specifications; industrial design and product assurance.

Changing emphasis

Increasing use of intelligent terminals in distributed processing work has been reflected in an all-in service which has been introduced by Baric Computing Services, jointly owned by International Computers and Barclays Bank.

Known as Datasave, the new service provides remote batch processing on an on-line basis. Baric will provide the software and the intelligent terminals which will link the customers with the Baric computer.

Recommended by Baric is the ICL (ex-Singer) 1500 range of terminals. As well as the hardware and software, finance can be provided through Barclays' interest-free loan scheme.

Mr Peter Holland, Baric managing director, said: "I will forecast that in a very few years' time intelligent terminals will become almost as commonplace equipment in business systems as the typewriter."

New guides

Two recently published books giving outlines of different aspects of contemporary computing are intended for small-company management and development engineers respectively.

The first is *Computerization for the small business* by Edward Cluff and Alan Simpson (published by Input Two-Nine in conjunction with the Data Processing Management Association at £9.95).

This is a layman's guide for directors and senior line managers which sets out to guide the reader through the many problems involved in choosing, running and getting the best out of his computer system.

In *Microprocessors—their development and application* (Electrical Research Association, £39), the ERA brings up to date its detailed technical survey of microprocessor devices, a field which is advancing perhaps more rapidly than any other.

Current technology and trends are described (including details of 150 devices from 40 manufacturers) in relation to the needs of new users and experienced engineers.

Kenneth Owen

FINANCIAL NEWS

Despite four years of recession Thyssen plans a dividend

From Peter Norman, Bonn, Nov 28
Thyssen, the West German steel and engineering group, announced that it should be able to pay a dividend of DM5.50 per DM50 nominal share for the financial year to September 30. Thyssen paid DM17 for 1975-76.

At a time when Germany's steel industry is entering its fourth year of recession, the fact that Thyssen is planning to pay a dividend testifies to its decision some years ago to diversify away from its narrow steel producing base.

The group disclosed that its crude steel production fell by 8.5 per cent to 11.7m tonnes in the year ended September 30, and that its mass produced steel sector finished 1976-77 with much heavier losses than in 1975-76.

On the other hand, Thyssen's special steel production, its investment goods and manufacturing division and its trading and service sectors made profits.

The group reported that its supervisory board has approved new investments totalling DM350m for this year, most of which will go towards rationalising and modernising production facilities in West Germany.

Although the group said the purpose of its long term investment plan was to secure jobs, it managed to trim its workforce by 3.7 per cent to 134,371 in the course of the 1976-77 business year.

Hoechst follows BASF

Hoechst, the Frankfurt based chemical group, saw that its world-wide pre-tax profits declined by 15.6 per cent to DM825m in the first nine months of this year. Sales advanced slightly to DM17,380m from 17,180m. Peter Norman writes.

Before tax company earnings before tax also fell to DM151m from DM163m on a reduced turnover of 7,150m compared with 7,240m.

Hoechst is the third of the big three German chemical companies to publish figures for the first three quarters of this year. It experienced a sharper earnings fall than Bayer, but its results are roughly in line with those published by BASF.

Hoechst said that the profit drop reflected sluggish turnover trends, falling selling prices, growing pressure from imports on the home market and difficulties in export markets. It also cited the rise of the Deutsche Mark on foreign exchange markets.

Hoechst reported that at present capacity utilisation had fallen to around 69 per cent

Briefly

Chamberlain Phipps goes 48pc ahead

The improvement continued at Chamberlain Phipps as pre-tax profits rose from £835,000 to £1.2m for the six months to September 30.

Turnover of the group, which makes components and materials for footwear, clothing and automotive industries, rose by 16.2 per cent to £24.3m. Margins in turn increased from 5 per cent to 6.1 per cent. Earnings a share came out at 3.07p compared with 1.70p. It pays an interim dividend of 1.56p gross against 0.67p.

All divisions improved their profits, with the moulding and general industries showing a much better performance than this time last year when moulding underwent reorganisation.

Meanwhile Mr W. R. F. Chamberlain, chairman, is still optimistic for the year overall. In June the group announced that pre-tax profits for the full year to March 31 had risen from £693,000 to a record £2.1m.

STANDARD FIREWORKS

Standard Fireworks is making agreed bid for Barton Properties. The bid is for every 50 shares at 17.1p Barton as a whole £120,000.

LOAN FOR TUNISIA

A consortium of International Bank for Africa, Citibank, International and Chase Manhattan is to provide a \$125m seven year Euroloan to the Republic of Tunisia.

TRUCK STOCKS

Net square footage of selling space has increased since 1972 though policy is to open large stores in place of smaller ones.

MYRON GROUP

Company has paid £325,000 for production plant and equipment at Penard. Plant will be operated by new subsidiary Myron Radiators (Wales) and will produce radiators.

MID KENT WATER

Underwriting completed for an offer for sale of £5m 7 per cent redeemable preference stock 1982. Full details will be available tomorrow.

BAINEBRIDGE ENG

Chairman says that although the year will not be as successful as 1976, group remains strong financially and confident of the future.

GEO WHITEHOUSE

Chairman says prospects are encouraging. Proposed that every five 10p shares be consolidated into one ordinary of 50p.

EXCHANGE TELEGRAPH

Excel reports 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to record £1.18m for half-year to September 30. Turnover 22 per cent up to £10.8m. Profits for second half expected to be higher than the similar half last year.

MAGNET SOUTHERN

Group has acquired Houthamland De Vries, an old-established timber merchants business based at Houtham in Holland.

International

from 80 per cent in the spring and that 3,500 workers were on short time.

Hudson's Bay slips

Toronto-Hudson's Bay announces net earnings for the nine months ended October 31 of \$8.5m or 60 cents per share, compared with \$8.6m or 62 cents per share.

Sales and revenue increased 3.6 per cent to \$1,005,186,000 from \$951,817,000 for the same period in 1976.

Merchandising and natural resources earnings in the third quarter were improved over the comparable period last year, reflecting a continuation of the trend in the first six months.

Earnings from real estate, however, continued to reflect shortfall from the previous year.

The trend of consumer spending in the third quarter was generally unchanged. The group plans to open a further six stores in 1978.

Gen Immobiliare plan

Rome—Generale Immobiliare is seeking approval from creditor banks for a new plan to salvage the group, involving financial interests linked with Italian banks.

Creditor banks are expected to meet later this week to discuss the proposals, under which the group will ask for continued credit and funds to finance bids for contracts abroad, it was reported.

The new agreement was reached late last week between Immobiliare's managing director, Senator Arcangelo Belli and Rome construction and finance businessman, Senator Carlo Pesenti, a spokesman said.

Under the plan, creditor banks will be asked to accept real estate assets to cover part of Immobiliare's existing debt, and to convert into shares a recent Lire 35.7 billion convertible bond issue, subscribed to by banks.

Braun sales up 5pc

Kronberg—Sales of Braun Group, part of Gillette of the United States, rose 5 per cent in the year ended September 30 to a record high of DM812m, the group said.

It gave no earnings figures but said that they are expected to show a rise. Last March, Braun reported a 13.4 per cent increase in net profits to

DM9.14m for the 1975-76 year. Braun said, thought that sales were strongly influenced by currency swings and foreign price inflation. Parent company sales rose 7 per cent to DM157.4m. The share of exports in total sales rose to 62 per cent in the year before.

The electrical household and consumer appliance manufacturer said that while many European markets continued weak, other foreign markets showed good growth. Sales of newer electrical products were especially successful.—AP-Dow Jones.

German bank payouts

Frankfurt—Leading West German banks have relatively good 1977 earnings, and in coming months should remain among the leading shares subject to stock market interest, analysts at Deutsche Girozentrale-Deutsche Kommunalbank (DGZ) said.

In their latest report they forecast that Deutsche Bank will have the best earnings result, but like Dresdner Bank will pay a DM19 dividend carrying a DM5.06 tax credit. Commerzbank's cash payments would fall to DM15.50 from DM19 with the tax credit at DM4.78.

Estel sales drop

Sales of Estel NV Hoesch-Hoogovens, the Dutch-Ger joint steel concern, fell by 4.3 per cent in the third quarter to £12,300m (about £51m), put a loss of £150,000 on the first nine months, sales rose slightly to £16,900m from £16,800m in the similar period a year ago. Losses more than doubled in the first three quarters, however, to £126m, from £194m in the same 1976 period. Pig iron production was 1.89 million tons in the third quarter, up from 1.64 million tons in the second quarter.

Crude steel production was 2.57 million tons compared with 2.25 million tons. Rolled steel also rose to 2.24 million tons (consolidated) from 2.12 million tons.

Flick streamlines

The central holding company of the Flick Group of West Germany is diversifying its assets with activities in chemicals, paper and machinery, is being transformed into a partnership with shareholders, the company announces. Ownership and management of the group will be changed, a spokesman said. The new legal form creates the possibility of eventually expanding the group's capital base by the issue of shares.

Approaches for G Dew and Reed & Smith

The recent flurry of bid approaches continues with both Reed & Smith Holdings and G. Dew signalling that talks are on which could lead to an offer. Meanwhile Wintour Holdings' board says that it has not had chance to consider in detail the proposed offer announced on November 23 from A. A. Clark, but advises shareholders to take no action until they hear from the board.

Reed & Smith's shares were suspended at 35p on news of the approach and the group's valuation is thus about £3m. This is the paper and packaging group in which the National Enterprise Board took a near 30 per cent stake this time last year. It also takes in the Harrison Cowley Advertising agency, and reported a near doubled pre-tax profit of £449,000 for the six months to June 30.

At the G. Dew civil engineering group, the board emphasises that discussions are at an early stage and that other approaches in the past have proved abortive. The shares were not suspended rise 27p to 122p on the news.

Ship sale proceeds boost Stag's

In spite of reduced turnover, down from £2.25m to £2.25m, profits of the North Shields-based Stag Line almost trebled in the year to October 31, rising from £218,000 to £636,000.

However, profits include a £441,000 surplus on the sale of Stag's ship, Gloxinia and investment income of £124,000, compared with £169,000 last time. The year's profits are also after charging pre-delivery interest on loan capital of £105,000, against last year, as well as depreciation.

The total gross payment is going up from £15.95p to £17.27p. As good as these profits are, they still have a long way to go to reach the record £1.01m achieved in 1973-74.

Margins warning by Edward Jones

Although reporting pre-tax profits for the first half of this year up from £30,500 to £50,500, the board of Edward Jones (Courtauld's) warns that difficult conditions still persist and that no substantial improvement can be expected for some time.

Based on orders already in hand, the year's turnover should be up on last time, although margins are likely to be affected by present conditions.

Lennon Bros shares jump on takeover

Shares in Rugby-based Lennon Bros soared yesterday on the news that it is being taken over in an agreed offer.

The private company of Palmer and Harvey has agreed to make an offer worth £1.5m for Lennon. Terms: £4.57 for each ordinary and 65p for each preference

share. Shares in Lennon jumped by £3.83p to £4.60 on the news. But there is only a small market in the shares. Dealers say they were last dealt in May, 1976, at a price of 60p. The offer will be satisfied by loan stock of Palmer, which will not be listed on the stock exchange. There will be a cash alternative. The board of Lennon and members of their families have agreed to accept for 44 per cent or the ordinary.

Ldn & Midland Ind sees bumper year

A substantial improvement over the £1.5m pre-tax record profit achieved by London & Midland Industrials for the whole of 1976-77 is predicted for this year by the board. The first six months has shown a 31 per cent rise to £851,000 on sales 27 per cent higher at £m, so margins improved from 9.15 per cent to 9.18 per cent.

The group's financial position has been strengthened by reductions of £277,000 for the half year, and also by the decision to release £552,000 to reserves from provisions for stock relief at March 31 which will not be payable.

Clarke Chapman buys group next door

Clarke Chapman has agreed to buy from Thomas W. Ward the business of Thomas Smith & Sons (Rodley) which makes cranes and draglines. The group's works are next to the Clyde Boat Rodley Crane works of Clarke Chapman, which is one of the world's biggest crane makers. The purchase is in keeping with the Clarke Chapman policy of expanding its range and product base and will fall within the pattern of the enlarged Northern Engineering recently formed by the merger of Clarke Chapman and Reyrolle Parsons.

UB paying £1.5m for BOC pizza group

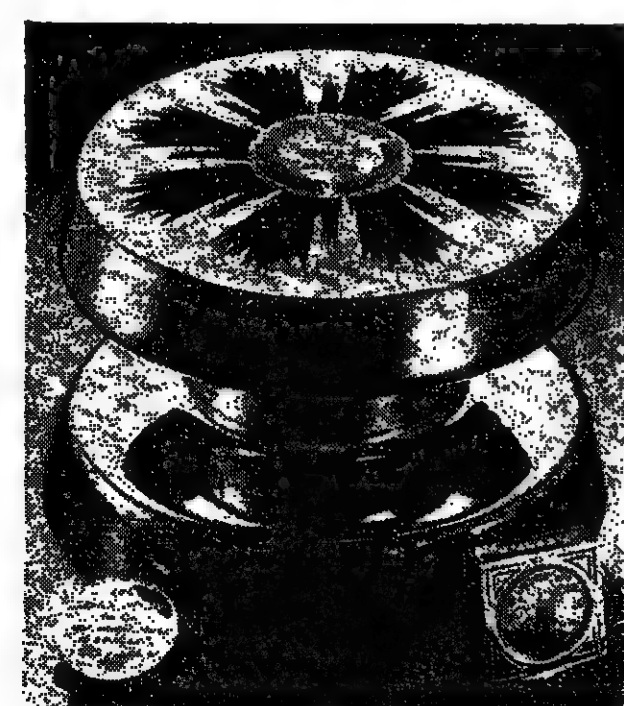
Britain's biggest pizza company, King Harry Foods, which turns out more than 18m pizzas a year, is being sold by BOC International, which started the company in the late 1960s for £1.5m. The buyer is United Biscuits, the McVitie's biscuits and KP naps group which recently acquired the Wimpey franchise from J. Lyons.

King Harry accounts for around 60 per cent of the United Kingdom frozen pizza market, where sales are made both under the "King Harry" brand name and also on a private label basis. Big customers include Marks and Spencer, Birds Eye and Finlay.

LISTINGS CANCELLED

Brown Muff 65 per cent preference (over 94 per cent is held by House of Fraser), New Hillyer by ordinary and preference. That list trust warrants to subscribe for ordinary and 3 per cent debenture listing. addition: Crutcher's G&S

ENTER NOW FOR THE TIMES AWARDS FOR THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT OF A COMPANY'S RESULTS FOR 1977.



The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results have aroused such considerable interest since their introduction in 1974, that the competition is now in its fourth year during 1977.

The categories in which awards will be made are listed alongside.

The conditions of entry remain unchanged.

The Awards

The awards follow the 1976 pattern, namely:
a) The Grand Prix, to be held for one year, awarded to the entrant whose advertisement is, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted, irrespective of category. The Grand Prix consists of a silver trophy, specially designed for The Times by Gordon Hodgson.

b) First, second and third prizes for category winners. Awards will be made both to the winning advertiser and agent.

The Panel of Judges

The Awards are made by an independent panel of judges, selected for their understanding of this specialised form of communication.

They judge entries in accordance with the following criteria. An advertisement of a company's results, whether the Chairman's statement is or is not included in full or in abridged form, should:

- Attract the eye, by virtue of its design.
- Be easy to read, by the use of skilful typography.
- Contain such information as prospective investors or professional advisers are likely to require, including details of the business carried on by the company.
- Include, at the option of the advertiser, such illustrations, graphs, or diagrams as may be necessary to supplement (c) above.
- Leave the reader with the impression that the company concerned would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or to invest in.

Note: In the case of the categories 'Interim Results' or 'Preliminary Figures', only criteria (a) to (d) will apply.

Conditions of Entry

All entries are free, but must have appeared in the pages of The Times Business News during 1977.

The following are the categories in which awards will be made:

- Annual Results.
 - Colour or Black and White. Half page or larger, or equivalent.
 - Colour or Black and White. Less than half page or equivalent.
- Interim Results or Preliminary Figures. Colour or Black and White (All sizes).

The Judges will have the option of making, at their absolute discretion, special awards for the following:

- *The best advertisement by an overseas company.
- *The best advertisement smaller than 20cms x 4 cols.
- *The advertisement which makes the most significant contribution to new and imaginative thinking in financial advertising (without necessarily satisfying all the criteria for the Grand Prix or Category Winners.)

Entries will be accepted throughout the twelve month period January 1st - December 31st 1977, and should take the form of art pulls mounted on board, with a clear indication of the category in which they are to be judged. Six unmounted art pulls should also be provided for the use of the Award Judges. They should be sent to:

Michael Mander, Deputy Chief Executive and Marketing Director, The Times Awards, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Tel: 01-8371234. Presentation of the awards will be made early in 1978.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

هكذا من الاصل

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE

To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel: PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY 01-837 3311

APPOINTMENTS 01-278 9311 PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS 01-278 9351

MANCHESTER OFFICE 061-834 1234 Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel: Classified Queries Dept. 01-837 1234, Ext. 7180

Advertisements in this section are accepted on the basis of cash payment in advance. The advertiser is responsible for the content of the advertisement. The advertiser is responsible for the content of the advertisement.

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BIRTHS

MUNRO-WILSON. On November 26th, at Westminster Hospital, to Mr and Mrs J. Wilson, a daughter (Charlotte Louise).

PINDER. On November 26th, at St. Mary's Hospital, to Mr and Mrs Pinder, a daughter (Sarah Jane).

STANFORD. On November 26th, at St. Mary's Hospital, to Mr and Mrs Stanford, a daughter (Emily Rose).

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DEATHS

OLIVER. On November 26th, at St. Mary's Hospital, to Mr and Mrs Oliver, a daughter (Charlotte Louise).

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PERSONAL COLUMNS ALSO ON PAGE 27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TRIBUTE TO STEVE BIKO

Dr Beyers Naudé and his staff, black and white, are banded but the work and witness continue. The Institute's contribution will be even more needed in the future. Financial help is wholly used to meet the Institute's needs. Gifts may be sent to: THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE FUND, 2 EATON GATE, LONDON SW1W 9EL

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ARTS COUNCIL SHOP LUNCH TIME SPEAKERS Tomorrow, November 30th at 1.30 p.m. Mr. H. W. Wheldon

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Other clubs pay commission to taxi drivers, for customers THE CASLIGHT DOES NOT SO, NIGHT THE DRIVER BRINGS YOU TO LONDON'S RELIABLE CLUB

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE CHILDREN appeals for Legacies to support its work for the benefit of children in need

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN YOUR WILL

CHARITABLE LEGACIES AND GIFTS TO CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND SOCIETIES

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN

157A Clapham Road, London SW9 0PT

FINANCIAL SERVICES

RETIRED, REBUNDANT - Buy or sell your business, property, shares, etc.

IN MEMORIAM

KING, DORIS - 26 November 1906, 71 years, died 26 November 1977

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Geneva at Christmas

Special Christmas decorations to Geneva. Depart 22nd Dec, return 3rd Jan. Cost £44, fully inclusive, no extras. Chancery's Pound saving programme also has a Christmas availability to ZURICH, MUNICH, L.J., CANTO, PALMA, NICE and ATRIENS.

TAKE A CHRISTMAS FLY/CRUISE YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

8 day fly/cruise available for Christmas. Fly to Geneva, 5 days cruise on the Rhine, 3 days in the Alps.

ODE TO A GRECIAN URN

In winter, in England, it rains. It adds to the sense of being in Greece there is sun. Which is so much more.

CHRISTMAS SKIING IN ITALY

25-day inclusive holidays with ski lessons, lift passes, etc.

UP AND AWAY

FLY TO THE HOLIDAYS. Fly to the holidays, fly to the holidays.

WINE AND DINE

PORT-A-SHILLA DOCK. 01-960 0000. Fly to the holidays, fly to the holidays.

IT'S THE BEST WAY TO TRAVEL

FLY TO THE HOLIDAYS. Fly to the holidays, fly to the holidays.

FLY TRADE WINGS THIS CHRISTMAS

FLY TO THE HOLIDAYS. Fly to the holidays, fly to the holidays.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

FLY TO THE HOLIDAYS. Fly to the holidays, fly to the holidays.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

WORLD WIDE Economical Flights

To: Accra, Bangkok, Cairo, Delhi, Hong Kong, London, Manila, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Tokyo, etc.

FOR SALE

GREAT WINE SALE. ALL STOCKS MUST GO REGARDLESS OF COST!!!

BEAUTIFUL BECHSTEIN GRAND

BECHSTEIN GRAND. Beautiful Bechstein Grand.

THREE-QUARTER SIZE CONCERT GRAND PIANO BY C. BECHSTEIN

THREE-QUARTER SIZE CONCERT GRAND PIANO BY C. BECHSTEIN.

TURN YOUR PICTURES INTO CASH

TURN YOUR PICTURES INTO CASH. Turn your pictures into cash.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES. Mauritius and Seychelles.

FLY THE SPECIALISTS TO THE HOLIDAYS

FLY THE SPECIALISTS TO THE HOLIDAYS. Fly the specialists to the holidays.

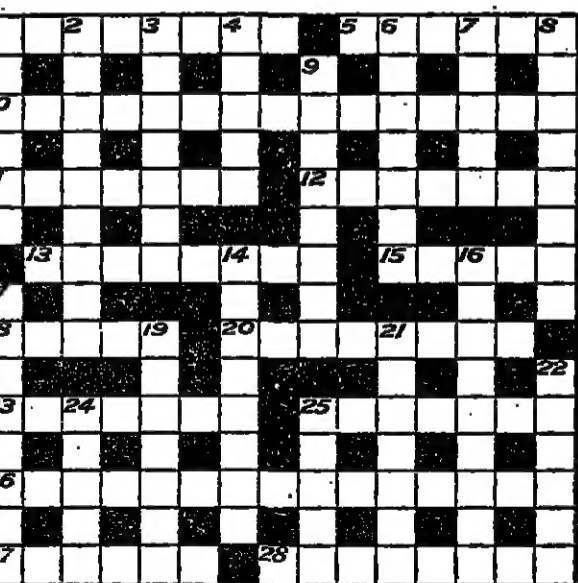
PORTUGAL HOLIDAYS

PORTUGAL HOLIDAYS. Portugal holidays.

MADEIRA GOLF HOLIDAYS

MADEIRA GOLF HOLIDAYS. Madeira golf holidays.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,771



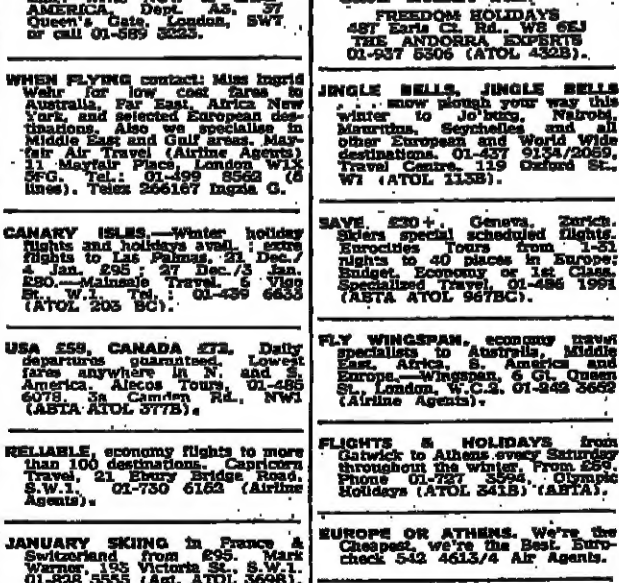
ACROSS 1 Who's entitled to a pension in various forms? (8) 2 Detestation of breaking the thread (6) 3 Cause of admiral's death while swimming? (9, 6) 4 Throw-out with no right to safe seat? (7) 5 Constant conductor shows a measure of brightness? (7) 6 Pay out more for sorting unsorted letters? (8) 7 Diet with it-inhaling tobacco? (9) 8 They oppose Protestantism in part? (5) 9 This baby made to try a pipe? (4-4) 10 Sewer's safety device? (7) 11 Goes further down for river swans? (7) 12 Done's on a tour, but not one of a party? (6-9) 13 Praises former way-leave charges, say (5) 14 Presses on via South Island ways (8)

Can buy me love.



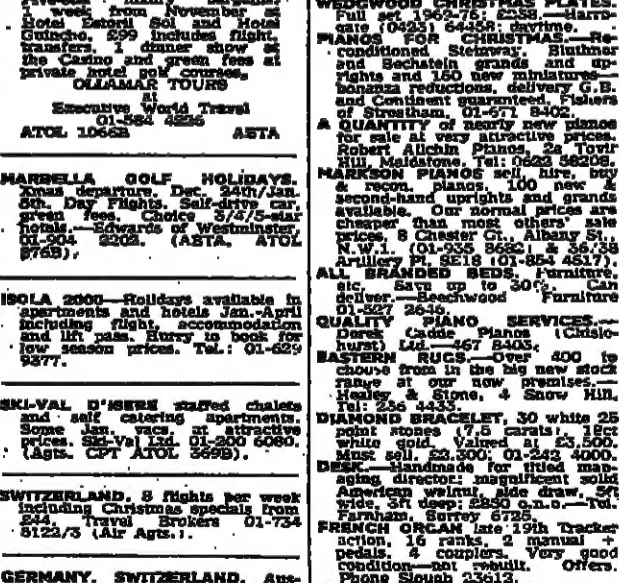
Your gift can mean happiness for someone this Christmas. 10,000 men, women and children will be in our care this Christmas. Please help us spread the love born in Bethlehem. To The Salvation Army, I would like to help the people in your care. NAME ADDRESS

SALE ROOMS & AUCTIONS PAGE APPEARS TODAY DON'T MISS IT



Put your car on display. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S CAR. XJ6 4.2. December '73. Green and silver. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2200 cc. 2400 cc. 2600 cc. 2800 cc. 3000 cc. 3200 cc. 3400 cc. 3600 cc. 3800 cc. 4000 cc. 4200 cc. 4400 cc. 4600 cc. 4800 cc. 5000 cc. 5200 cc. 5400 cc. 5600 cc. 5800 cc. 6000 cc. 6200 cc. 6400 cc. 6600 cc. 6800 cc. 7000 cc. 7200 cc. 7400 cc. 7600 cc. 7800 cc. 8000 cc. 8200 cc. 8400 cc. 8600 cc. 8800 cc. 9000 cc. 9200 cc. 9400 cc. 9600 cc. 9800 cc. 10000 cc.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. Christmas greetings.

RENTALS



RENTALS. Rentals.